HUNTING with
Sight Hounds

$1

by JOE STETSON

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by Joe Stetson

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Cover drawing: An artist's concept of the chase as it was practiced during the days of Czarist Russia. This huntsman is using a brace of Borzois to run down a hare.

Frontispiece: Three coursing enthusiasts with their Borzois in search of game. Coursing is almost as old as the history of man itself, and today the sport is enjoying a return to a well-deserved popularity.

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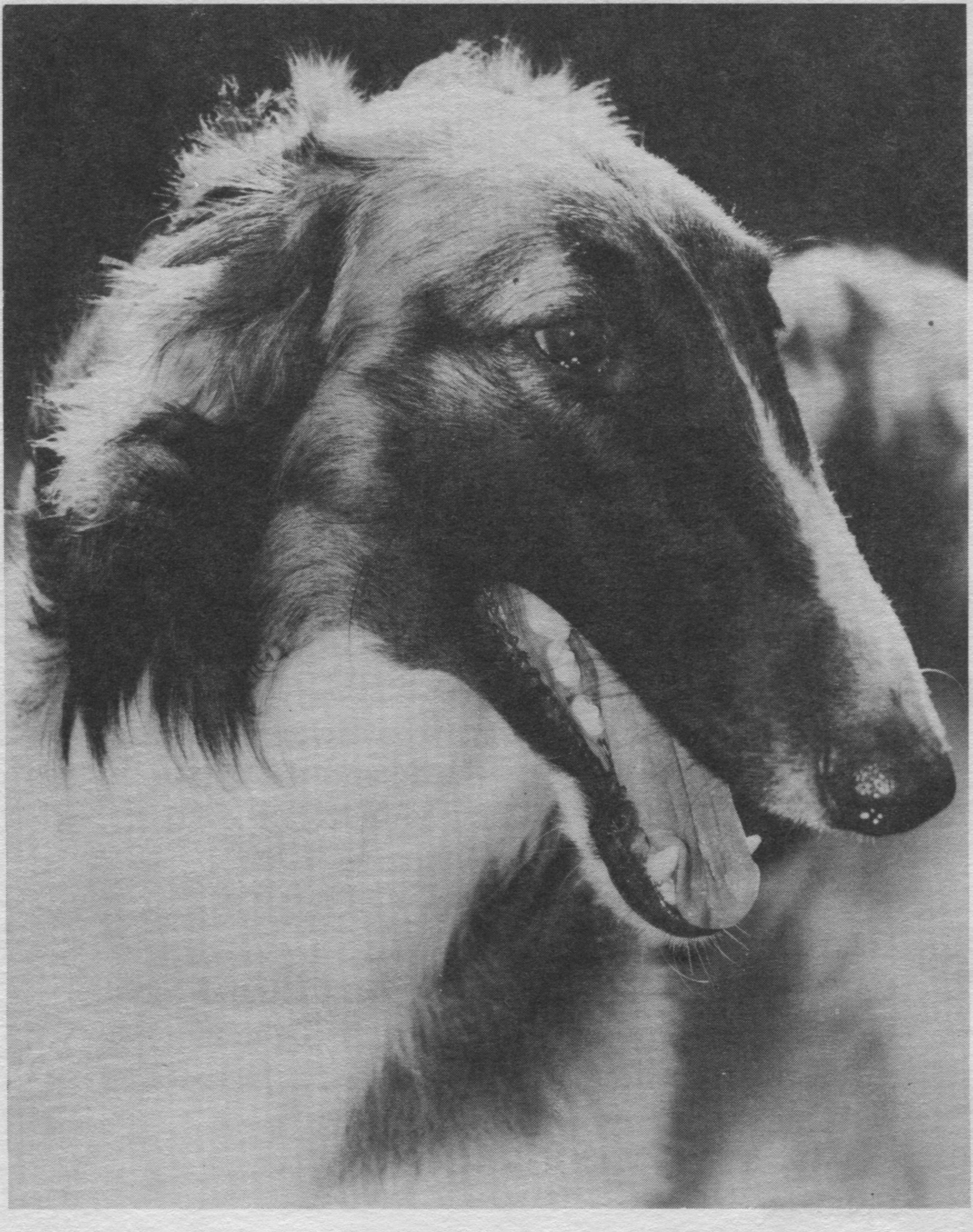


Running hounds have been the hunting companions of man for untold centuries, first in the role of provider for the table and then as a provider of sport. These dogs have always stirred a great deal of admiration and are still considered by many as the most beautiful purebreds.

1. Origin and Purpose of Sight Hounds

INTRODUCTION

Since long before recorded history man has used dogs to pursue game for food. When the game was located by following its trail, the dog's scenting powers were used. When the dog could see the game, he would chase and catch it if he could.

The time came when man selected the dogs which could run faster in order to sight-chase game. These dogs, when bred together, produced dogs of their own type—

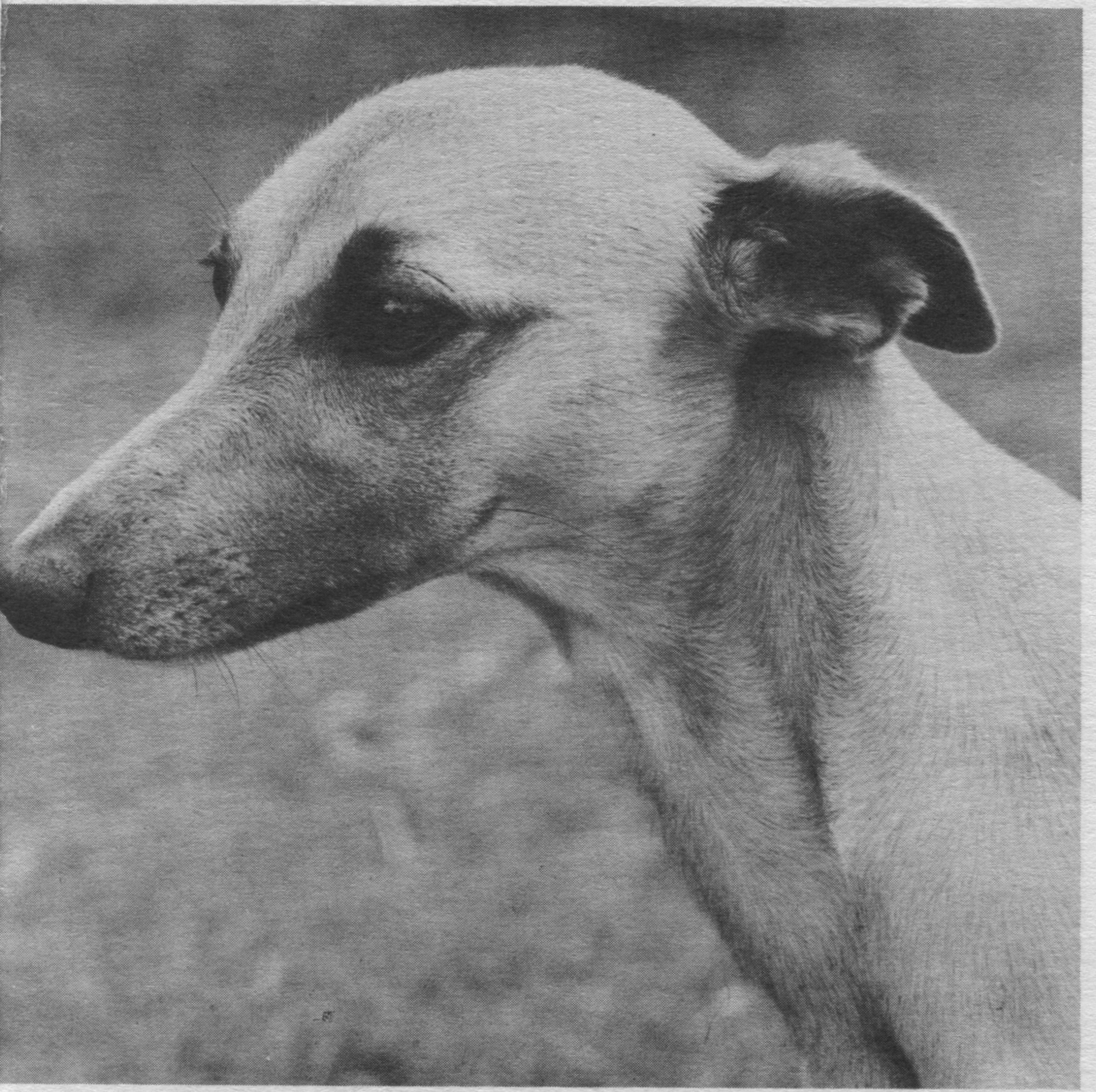
Five of the original members of the Pacheco hunt (*l. to r.*) Phydelma Gillette with Ch. Garsova Ivanova of Alpine, C. D., Jack Boyd with Chs. Milka and Prometheus of Rancho Gabriel, Lyle Gillette with Ch. Obvorozevat Laska of Alpine, E. G. Johnston with Persephone of Rancho Gabriel, and Elizabeth Dadmun with Ch. Lebidiska of Rancho Gabriel.

some faster, some slower. By selection, in parts of the world where a fast dog was necessary or desirable, dogs resulted which could run faster than others of their species. Thus, did the sight hound come to be. Later, the other qualities important to overtaking and killing or holding the particular game of the area were bred for or developed by training. In this way the "wind hounds," the "gaze hounds," the speed merchants of the dog world, came to be.

WHAT IS A SIGHT HOUND?

A sight hound then, is any dog used to overtake its game which it follows by sight. He must have good vision, be fleet of foot, agile and able to negotiate uneven terrain and quick turns. He must have endurance and the

The modern follower of coursing is attracted to the sport and good fellowship afforded. An exhilarating morning with his hounds and companions of like interest are two of the things that motivate the coursing enthusiast in this "sport of the ages."



All sight hounds share certain basic physical traits. This Whippet displays the lean head, "rose" ears (not present in Saluki and Afghan Hound), and the long, graceful neck. All these features are beautiful, but they had an original purpose in utility rather than beauty.

fortitude to tackle the game when he comes upon it. Different game of course, presents problems of varying magnitude. Training and know-how are great assets with sight hounds, as in most other endeavors.

There are many breeds and strains of sight hounds in the many areas of the world where such dogs were or are used. Certain of them have found their way into western

Of all the sight hound breeds the Greyhound stands out above all others as the king of canine speedsters. Throughout his several thousand year history he has served man equally well as a hunter and as a racing dog.

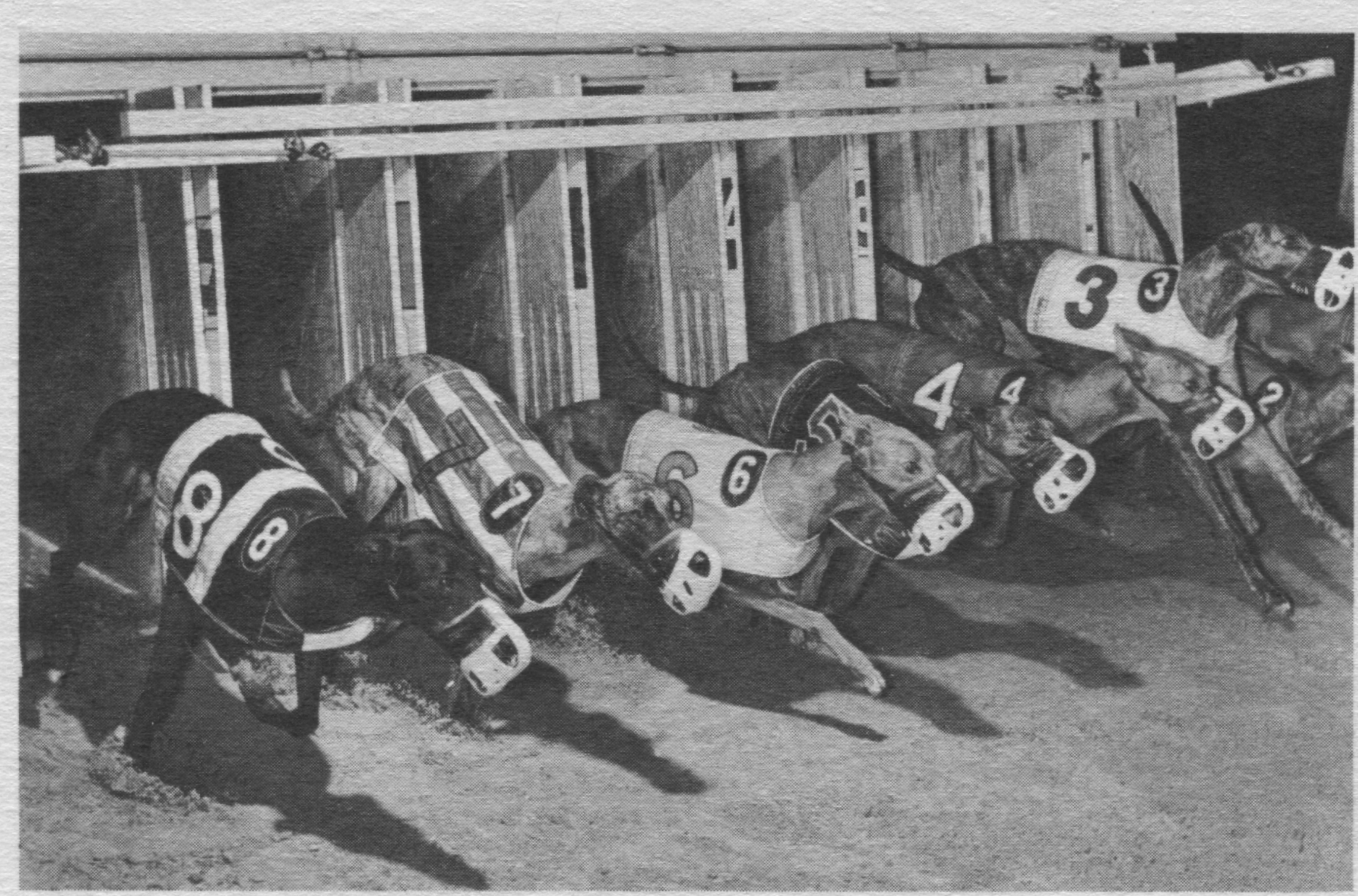
society: Many interested sportsmen and dog fanciers in England, and later in America, have imported and bred them and subsequently brought them to official recognition. Eight sight hound breeds have stud records that are recognized by the American Kennel Club. The seven in the hound group are the Greyhound, Saluki, Afghan Hound, Scottish Deerhound, Irish Wolfhound, Borzoi, and Whippet. In the toy group is found the smallest of the coursing dogs, the Italian Greyhound. There are many other purebred or well-typed breeds or strains of running hounds, but they are not well known or they do not have breeding records—at least not in our possession in the United States.

SPEED OF A SIGHT HOUND

It might be well-taken at this point to consider the capabilities and limitations of sight hounds and to dispel any idea that they can attain speeds in excess of the gazelle, antelope and some other game for which they are used. The accomplishments of a good sight hound are unusual enough without attributing impossible feats to these dogs. In this discussion we can generalize and consider that all Greyhound types have approximately the same speed.

In considering speed we must think also of distance, since some game is faster at a sprint than the hounds which can overtake it when more or less distance is involved. As an example, the American pronghorn (often called antelope colloquially) has been rated by various experts at speeds of approximately sixty miles an hour. A

Sauvignon of Rancho Gabriel, owned by Phydelma and Lyle Gillette. This bitch has earned the title "Pacific Coursing Champion." Her owners report "she is a fast, agile, and extremely eager huntress."



Many people are acquainted with the racing aspect of sport with sight hounds. The Greyhound has, for many years, been a formidable drawing card for thousands of racing fans, and these people bet a staggering amount of money on the fleetness of foot of their favorites.

fast thoroughbred with jockey and tack weighing one hundred and twenty pounds cannot run a mile as fast as forty miles an hour. Greyhounds are slightly slower. Despite these facts, the noted naturalists, Seton and Guinnell, report the repeated success of their Greyhound Gibbon, in running down pronghorns. They also report instances of running pronghorn down on horseback. Their horses were undoubtedly cold-blooded range ponies carrying stock saddles and equipment and riders considerably heavier than a jockey and his tack.

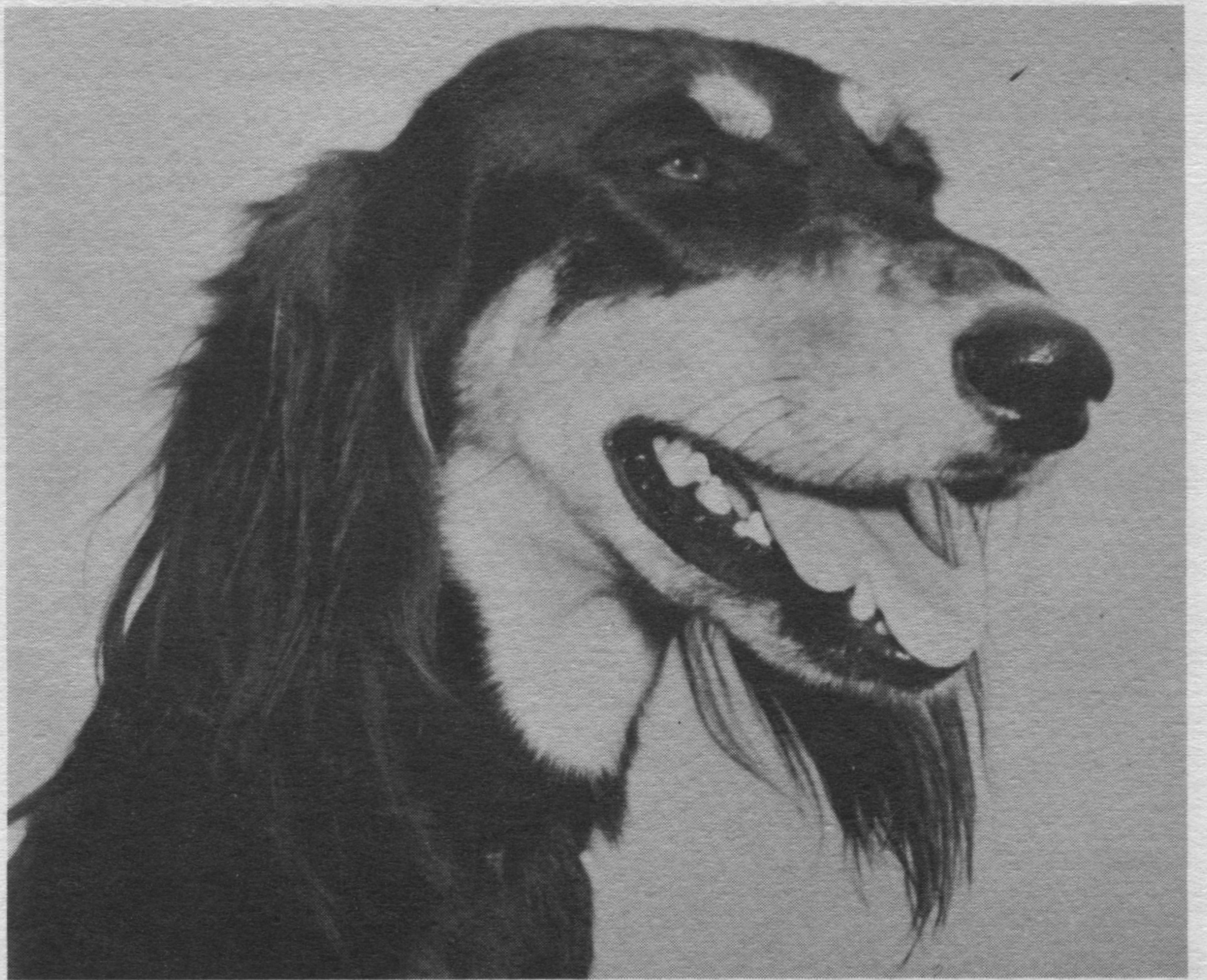
We must think then, of the gazelle hound overtaking animals with greater sprint speed but less endurance. Hare, wolves and certain other game may be fast, but not so fast as the sight hound. As we shall discuss, the hare must use its ability to change direction rapidly in its efforts to escape, which incidentally, it often does.

2. Development of the breeds

THE SALUKI

Recorded history, art from the ancients, and logical deductions from all facts and conditions known to us indicate that sight hounds are probably the oldest type of dog with scientific and carefully recorded breeding. The Saluki, or gazelle hound, of the Arabs has been bred for

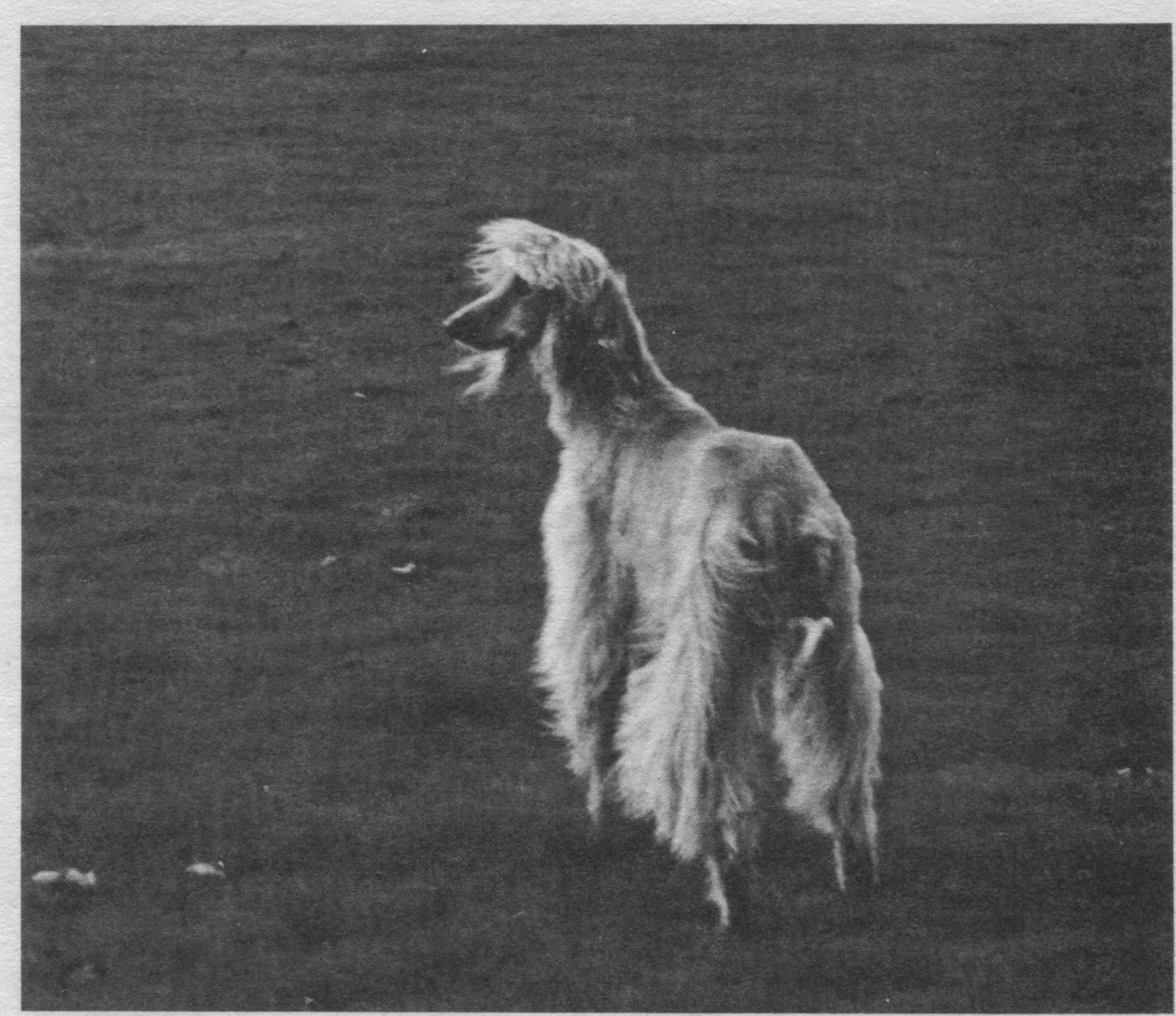
The Saluki is said to be the oldest existing breed of dog. There is documented proof that the breed was widely used for hunting throughout north Africa and the Middle East thousands of years before the birth of Christ.



centuries with the same concern for worth and careful selection as was the Arabian horse, which this culture contributed to us. And before the Arabs? Who knows for the gentry and sportsmen of what great civilizations and cities now deeply buried in windswept sands the Saluki coursed its game? From whence came its name? As good a possibility as any is the long vanished town of Saluk in Southern Arabia to which history gave tribute for its armor and its hounds.

The game of the Saluki was the hare, the desert fox and the gazelle. Hare and fox were lesser game. The gazelle, with speeds in excess of fifty miles an hour, was hunted in several different ways. Sometimes the hunter and his hound rode upwind as close as possible before the herd was alerted and the hound slipped to cut out a single animal and pursue it until stamina prevailed over sprint

Today's Saluki has lost none of his ancient zest for the chase. This picture shows the celebrated Saluki, Ch. Jen-Araby's Siva of Srinagar (*r.*) being slipped by his owner Dr. Winafred Lucas while the Borzoi, Sauvignon of Rancho Gabriel eagerly awaits her release by owner Lyle Gillette.



Coursing hounds from the Middle East varied according to climate and hunting conditions. The Afghan Hound is closely related to the Saluki, but carries a much longer coat to protect against extremes of weather in his native land. The Afghan also possesses "pivotal hip-joints." These were a necessity in the rugged, mountainous terrain the breed was used to hunt in. This lovely bitch, Sheeba, owned by Janet Gustman, was the first Afghan Grand Courser on the West Coast.

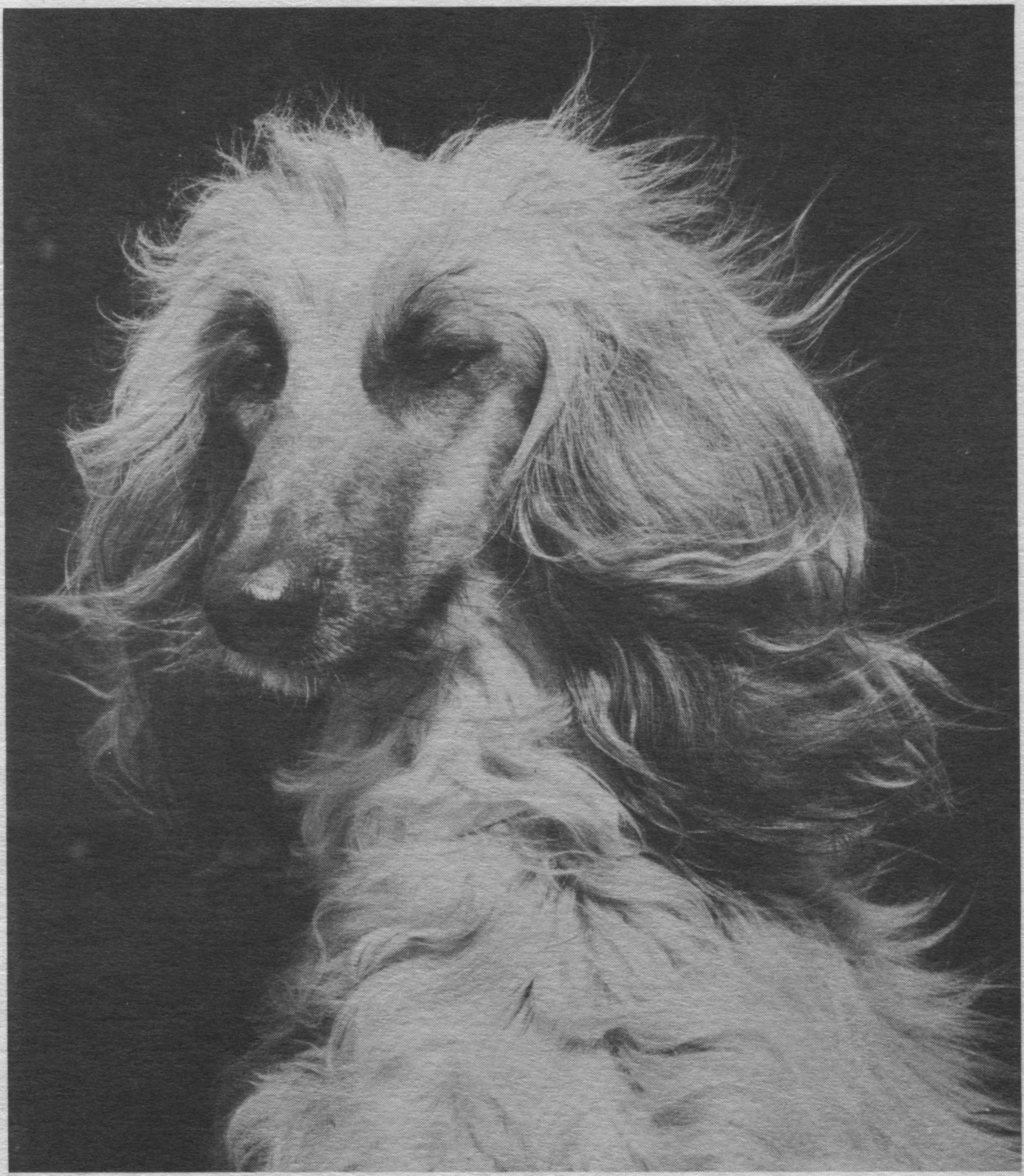
speed. Sometimes relays were used whenever the probable course of the quarry could be anticipated. The greatest form of the sport was undoubtedly the use of hawks with the hounds. Falconry was well developed by the Arabs. When game was sighted, hawk and hound were slipped and the Saluki, with his master riding hard behind him, followed the course of the bird until the game was overtaken and held for the master's arrival.

Sport though coursing was, the coursing hound played an important part in providing food for his master's family, even hunting the desert partridge and leaping to catch it on the rise.

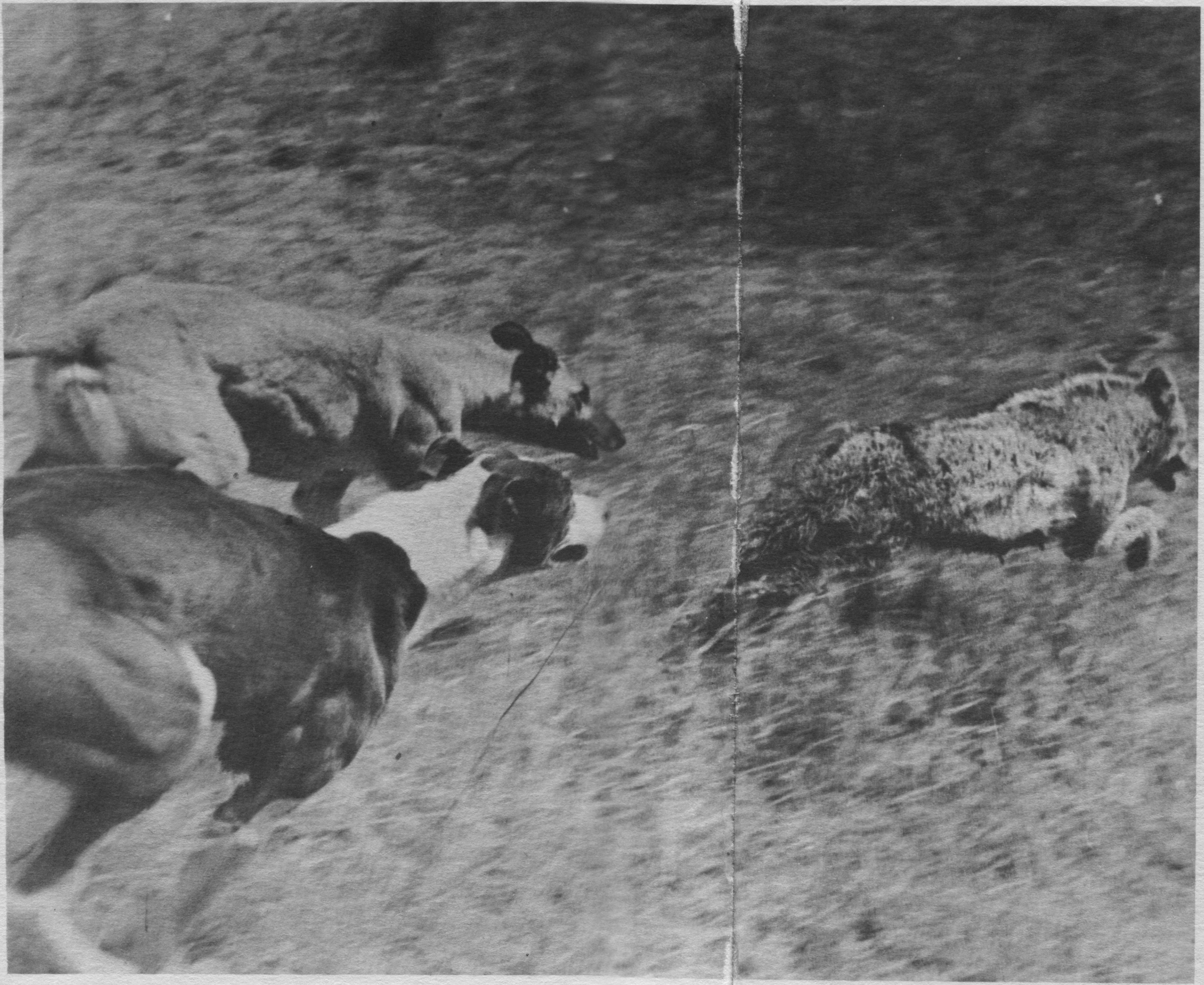
We must remember that lack of easy communication and transport between areas and differences in climate favored the breeding of variations in type. Thus we find a closer-coated dog in some parts of Arabia and more feather on those in Persia. Even heavier feather is found on the Greyhound of Afghanistan, which is considered and for some time has been as a separate breed.

It is only natural that fine specimens of a breed, so well able to perform, were attractive to other peoples and, in one way or another, found their way into the Near East,

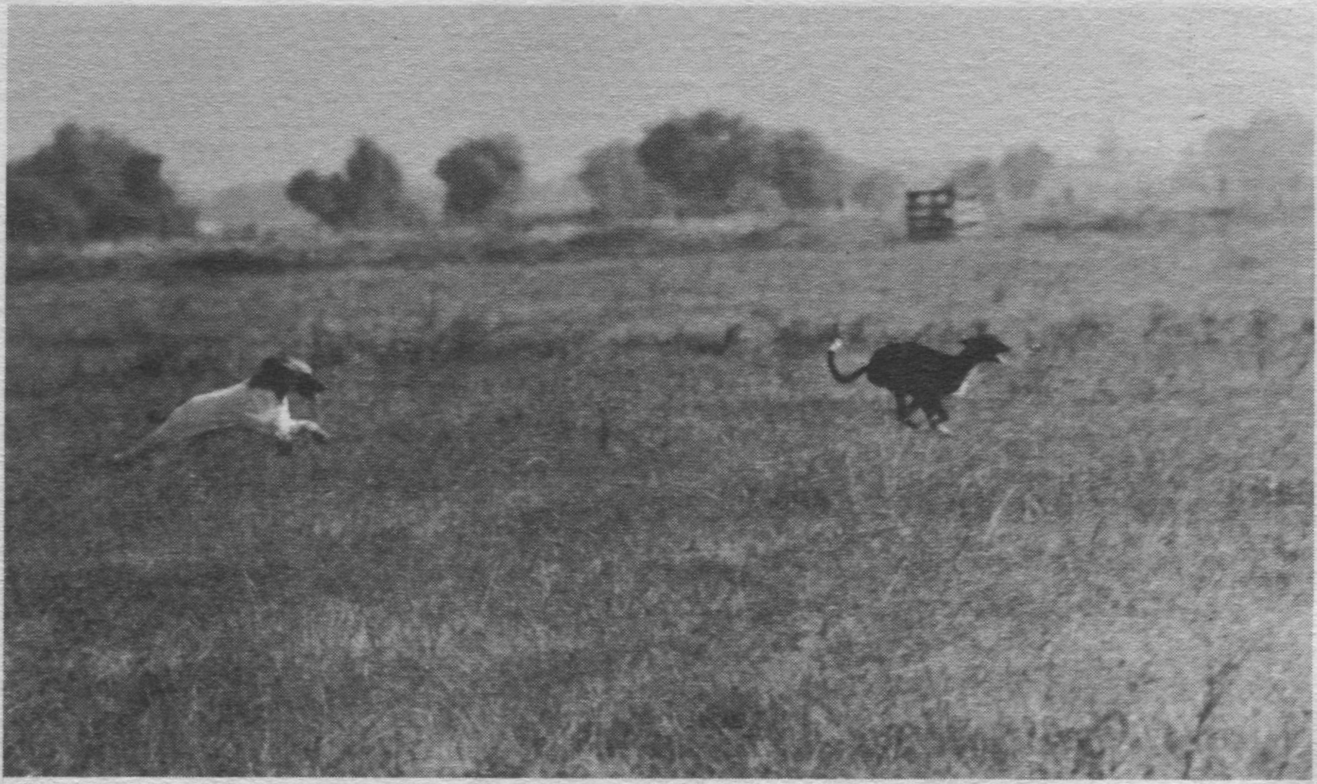
The desire to be "off and running" is plainly evident in the two Afghans and the Whippet making up this mixed course. The dogs wear racing jackets of various colors for the convenience of judge and gallery.



The Afghan has often been described as having "the look of eagles." Indeed, the great beauty of the Afghan and his high intelligence has made him highly sought after by those desiring an aristocratic companion. Those that have developed the coursing ability of the breed have derived an additional measure of enjoyment in letting their hounds fulfill the time-honored heritage of the breed.

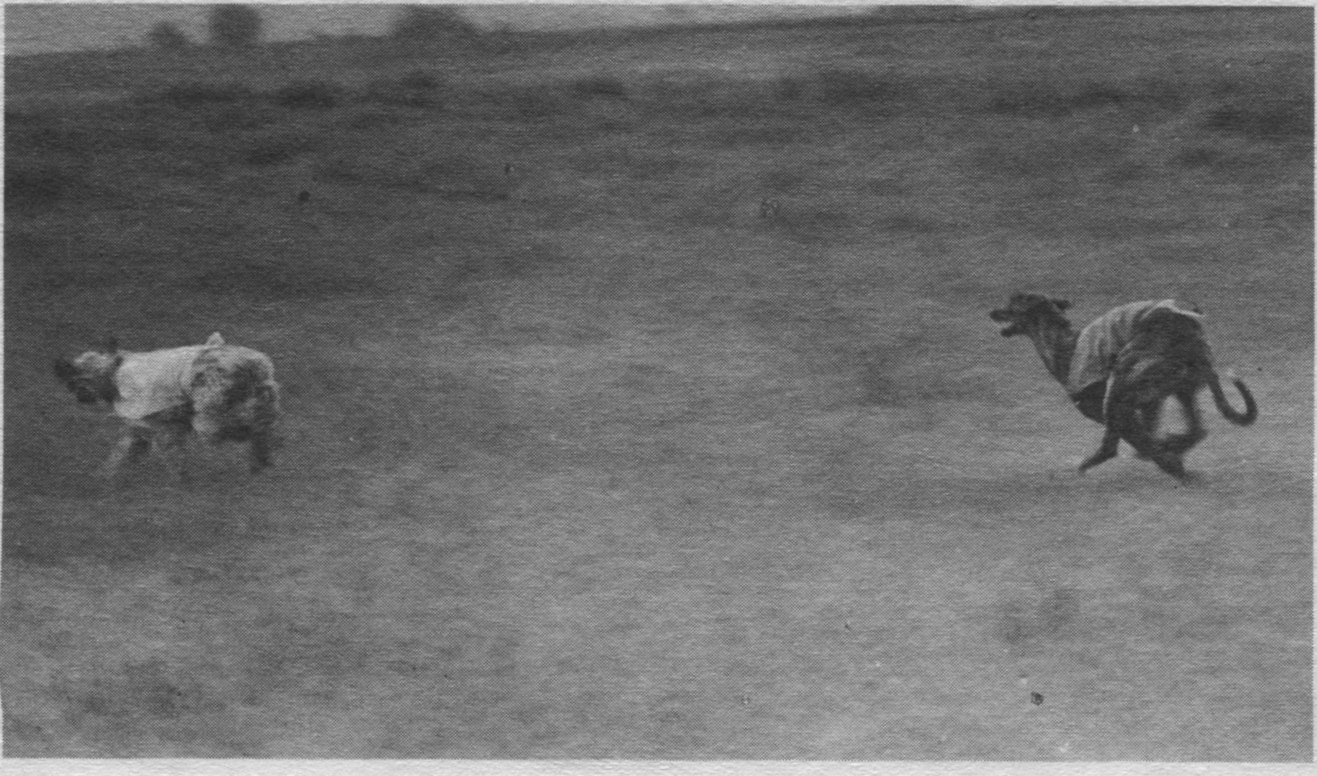


This remarkable photo, taken near Bassett, Nebraska, shows two Greyhounds in hot pursuit of a coyote. They are part of a mixed pack of sight hounds owned and run by Ben Ammon and Floyd Arrowsmith, and are typical of many such packs used to check predators throughout the plains states and the western section of the United States.



An Afghan Hound and a Greyhound covering a course. The Afghan in this photo is covered in ordinary men's pajamas. This is done with those dogs that are shown on the bench as well as coursed, and serves to protect the luxuriant coat desired for Afghans in the exhibition ring.

In this photo one can study two phases of the unique "double suspension gallop," the very specialized manner of moving that permits all members of the sight hound family to attain the terrific, ground-covering speeds that have distinguished them among all breeds.

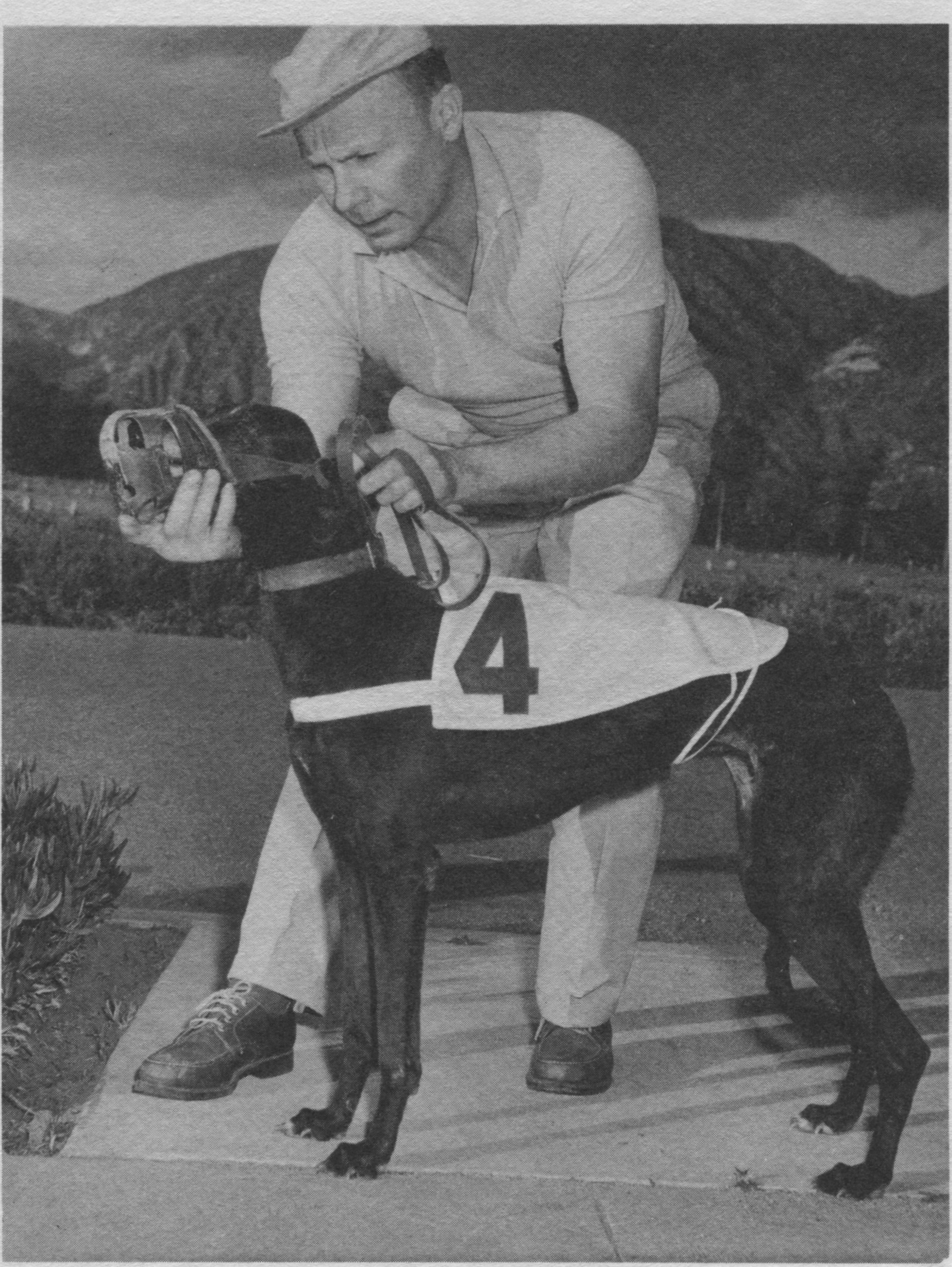


Greece, Gaul, and finally Britain. We know they were attractive to the Crusaders, some of whom brought them to England, France and Germany upon their return from the holy wars.

THE GREYHOUND

Just what happened in the transition from the pendant-eared Saluki to the English Greyhound can only be speculation, to which we can add definite knowledge of certain Bulldog crosses, which could be responsible for the "rose" ear of the modern Greyhound and Whippet. Yet we would still have to explain the ear of the Italian

Dogs being taught to race or course are often provided with wire schooling muzzles before being introduced to the leather muzzle. This is more true of racing hounds. Due to the great tension that is built up by the competition, many dogs tend to snap at those around them from nervousness. The muzzle is used to overcome this.



This Greyhound is fitted out in full track gear. Note the leather muzzle and the racing saddle with the dog's post position on it.

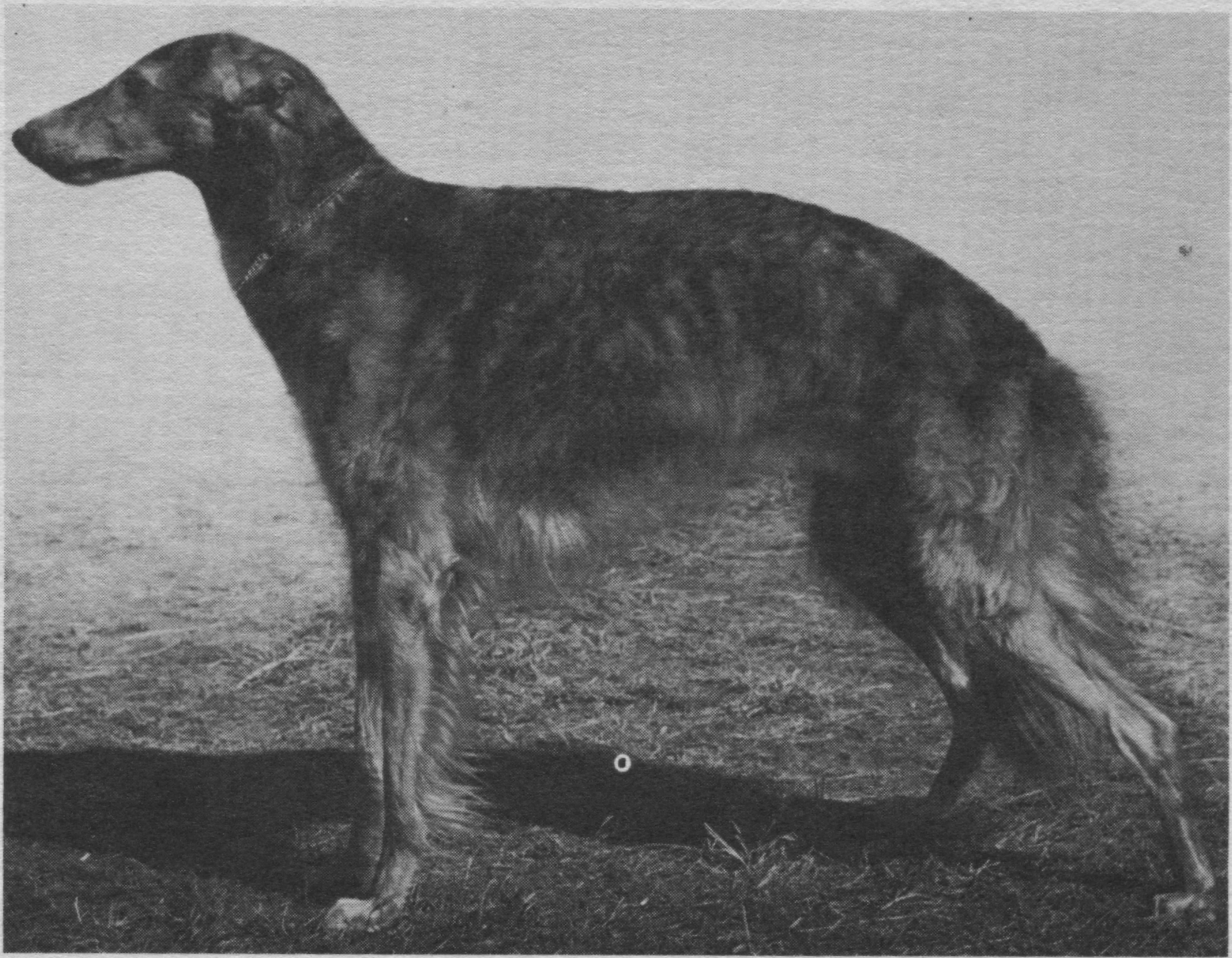
Greyhound which is, ear and all, a smaller image of both. We do know that coat, so important for protection from the sun, and the hair protection on the feet against hot desert sands, can be bred out without loss of usefulness in temperate climates.

I would like to mention here that breeding for speed and speed alone on the flat has resulted in a Greyhound that lacks the resilience of the Saluki, whose work was done over soft and shifting desert sands, the irregularities of which, would be definite obstacles to the top speedsters of our tracks.

THE BORZOI

The transition of the desert gazelle hound to the Borzoi is depicted in the various types of Borzoi originating

Ch. Great Rubinof of Bratzlaf, owned by the late R. A. E. Herbhold, is a good illustration of the desired dual type wanted in the Borzoi breed.



As with the hounds of the Middle East, Borzoi type varied depending on the climate and hunting conditions of the section of Russia a dog was bred in.

The Irish Wolfhound is the tallest of all dogs and one of the most powerful. As a breed he dates back several thousand years, and was originally bred to pursue the wolf and the stag that have since become extinct in Ireland. He is not coursed as much as some of the smaller hounds, but is held in high esteem by those that have come to know and admire him.

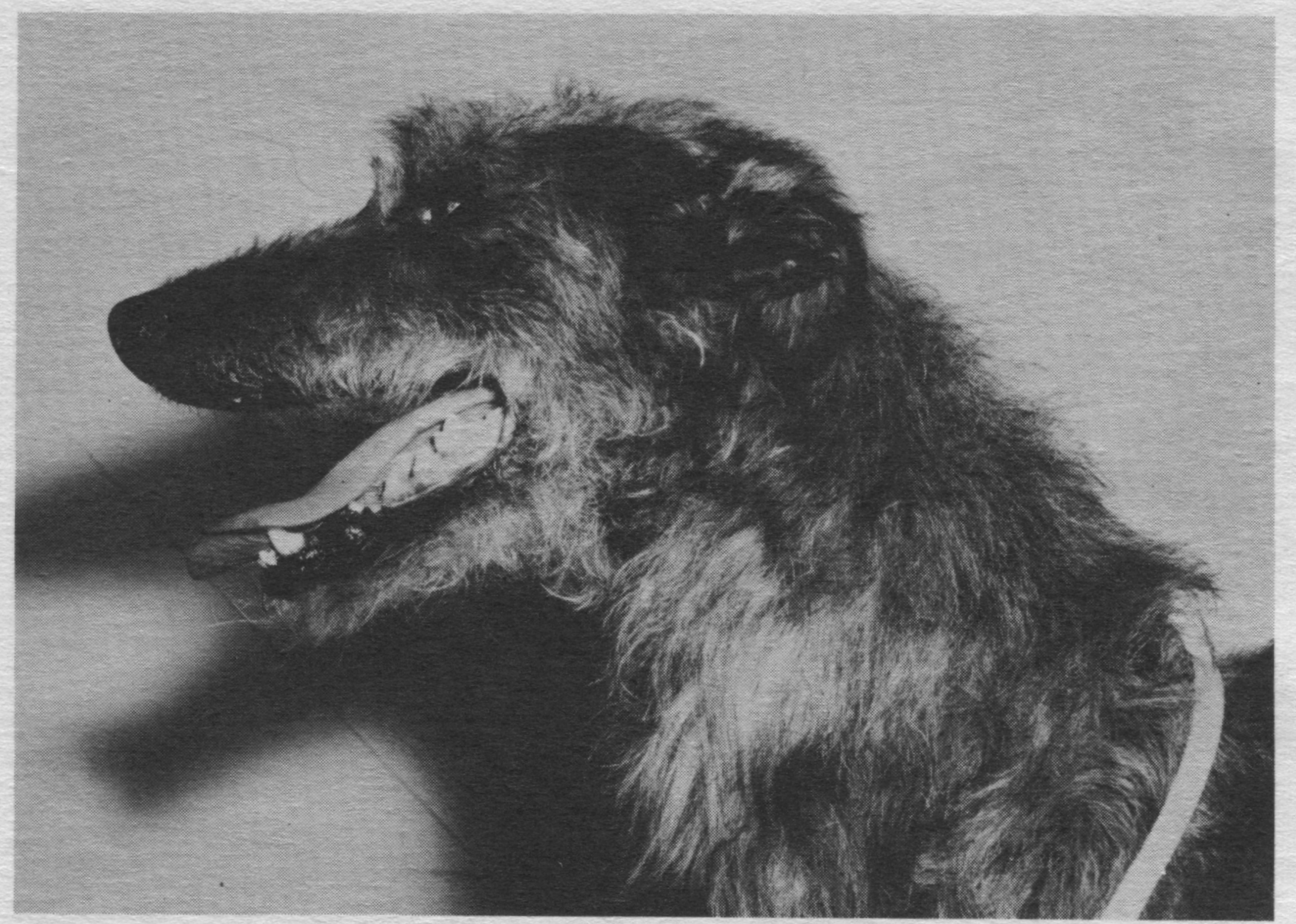
from different parts of Russia; the short-coated Borzoi of the south and the pendant-eared Borzoi of longer coat. In the north of Russia, where coat is necessary, it is profuse, though the running gear is essentially the same.

THE SCOTTISH DEERHOUND AND IRISH WOLFHOUND

Though we find all coat lengths from the smooth-coated English Greyhound to the long, silken-coated Borzoi, only in the British Isles are there wire-coated sight

The Irish Wolfhound (*above*) has a heart as big as he is. There is a saying about the breed in Ireland that goes, "gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked." He is in truth a gentle giant that gives those he loves a full measure of himself in any role he could be asked to assume.

The Scottish Deerhound (*left*) was at one time considered the "Royal Dog of Scotland." Often described as a rough-haired Greyhound, it was forbidden for anyone lower than an Earl to possess any of these great dogs.



The Scottish Deerhound was a particular favorite of Sir Walter Scott. There is a monument in Edinburgh in honor of the Bard of Abbottsford that shows the great writer with his favorite hound "Maida."

hounds. Wire coats are not difficult to obtain in the canine kingdom, as is indicated in many breeds such as the Fox Terrier, Dachshund, German and other Pointers, where wire coats are produced at will. We find them where the terrain, rugged as it is in Ireland and Scotland, indicated the need for such harsh wiry protection as is worn by the Irish Wolfhound and Scottish Deerhound.

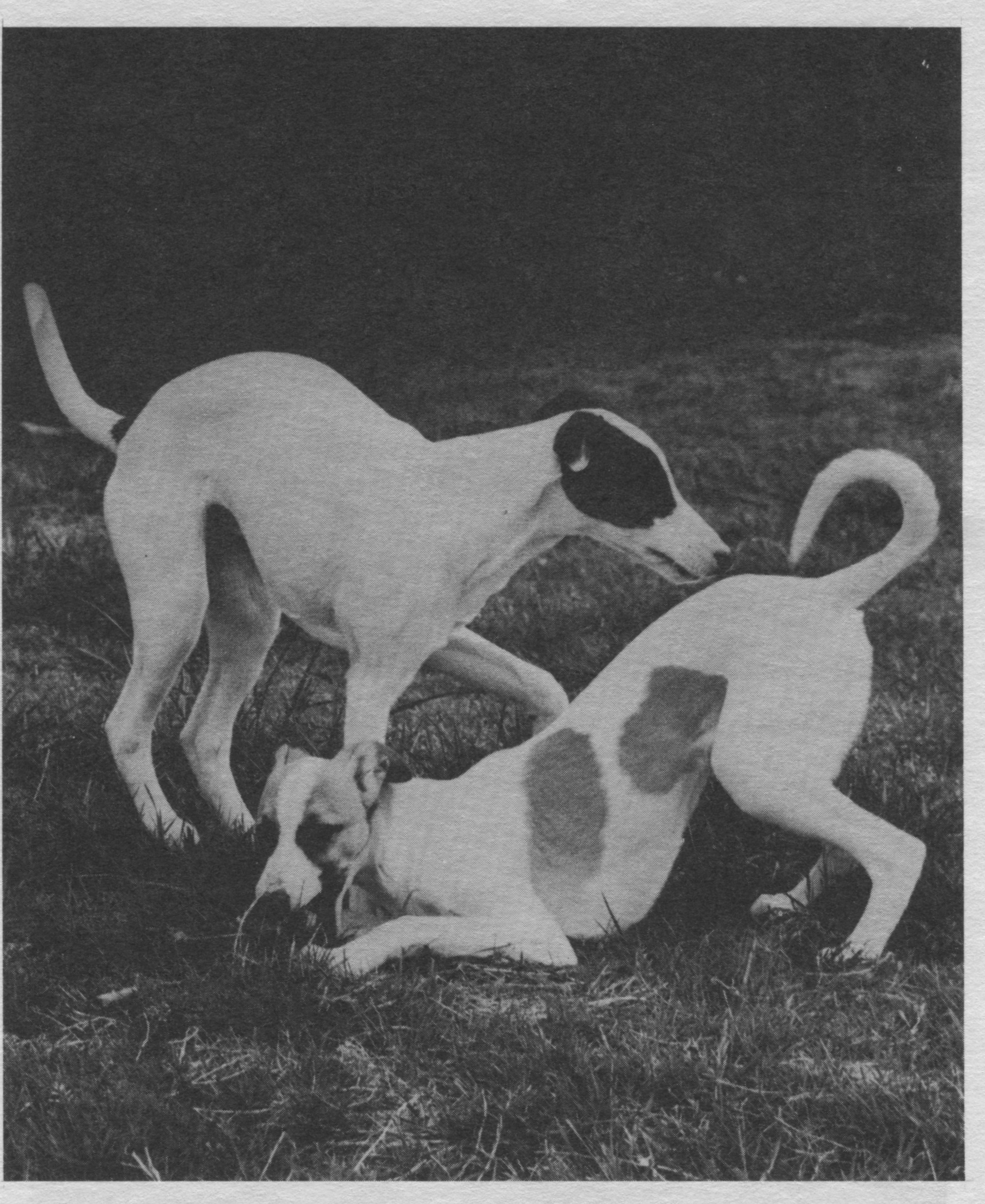
The Scottish Deerhound is very much a wirehaired Greyhound whose origin could very well be independent of the Greyhound's by separate breeding through selection for the kind and type. It may have been accomplished with or without using actual Greyhounds or dogs like the Greyhound of earlier times. Certainly, there were wirehaired dogs used or crossed in to perfect the type.

The Irish Wolfhound, biggest of frame of all dogs is much more cumbersome and thereby slower than the other sight hounds. It too, could have been produced by breeding selectively for rangy size. It, like the Scottish Deerhound, is an ancient breed having been in use by the tribes in Britain when the Romans arrived. In the nineteenth century the breed became almost extinct and was re-established by Capt. G. A. Graham using judicious crossings of Scottish Deerhounds and Great Danes.

THE WHIPPET

The Whippet was produced by crossing small Greyhounds with Manchester Terriers, Bedlington Terriers,

Although considerably smaller than most of his sight hound brethren, the Whippet has no less heart than any. He has in fact been clocked at such speeds as to make him the fastest animal of his weight in the world.



Symmetry is an integral part of the Whippet. Even in puppies, such as the two pictured in play here, this attribute is readily discernible. The symmetrical balance of his parts make for an animal that looks the part of the speedster he is and enables him to run with the best of them.

Old English White Terriers, and Italian Greyhounds. The object was to produce a small sprint dog that could be raced in relatively small areas, could be easily housed and fed by the poorer classes who owned them and, though less often admitted, could be used successfully for poaching. A team made up of a dog that was trained to flush hare from the fringes of royal preserves to be quickly caught legitimately on the highway by the slippedWhippet furnished much appreciated meat for the family table.

The name "snap dog," often applied to the Whippet, was probably a result of the fact that Whippets do snap at one another when they are competitively racing side by side.

Whippet racing, the courses usually measuring two hundred yards, is a major event in the mining towns of Durham and Newcastle in England where the breed is so popular. Called rag racing because each owner stands in

The Whippet has been called "the poor man's race horse," by reason of the breed's racing popularity among the working classes of the north of England.

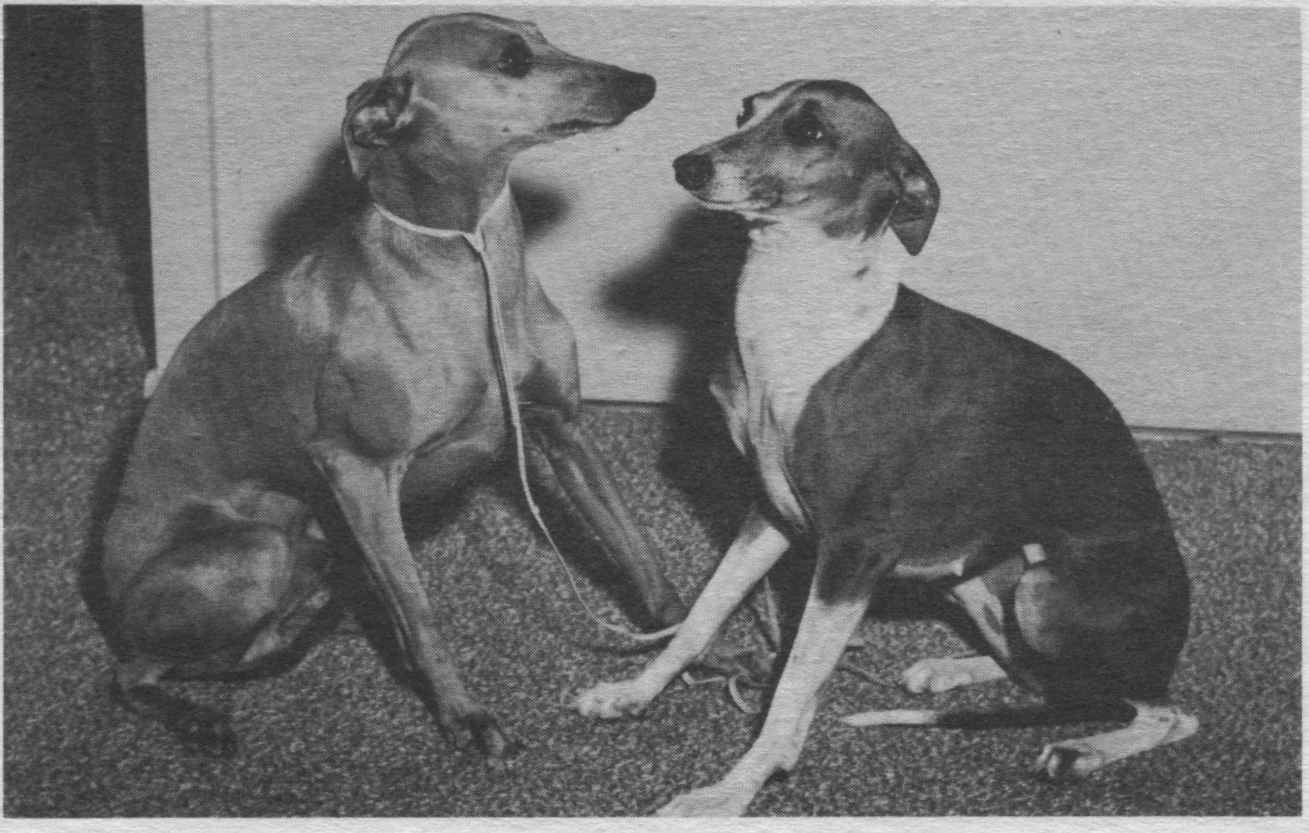
his lane just beyond the end of the course waving a kerchief, it is the Greyhound racing or horse racing of the poorer classes in the north of England.

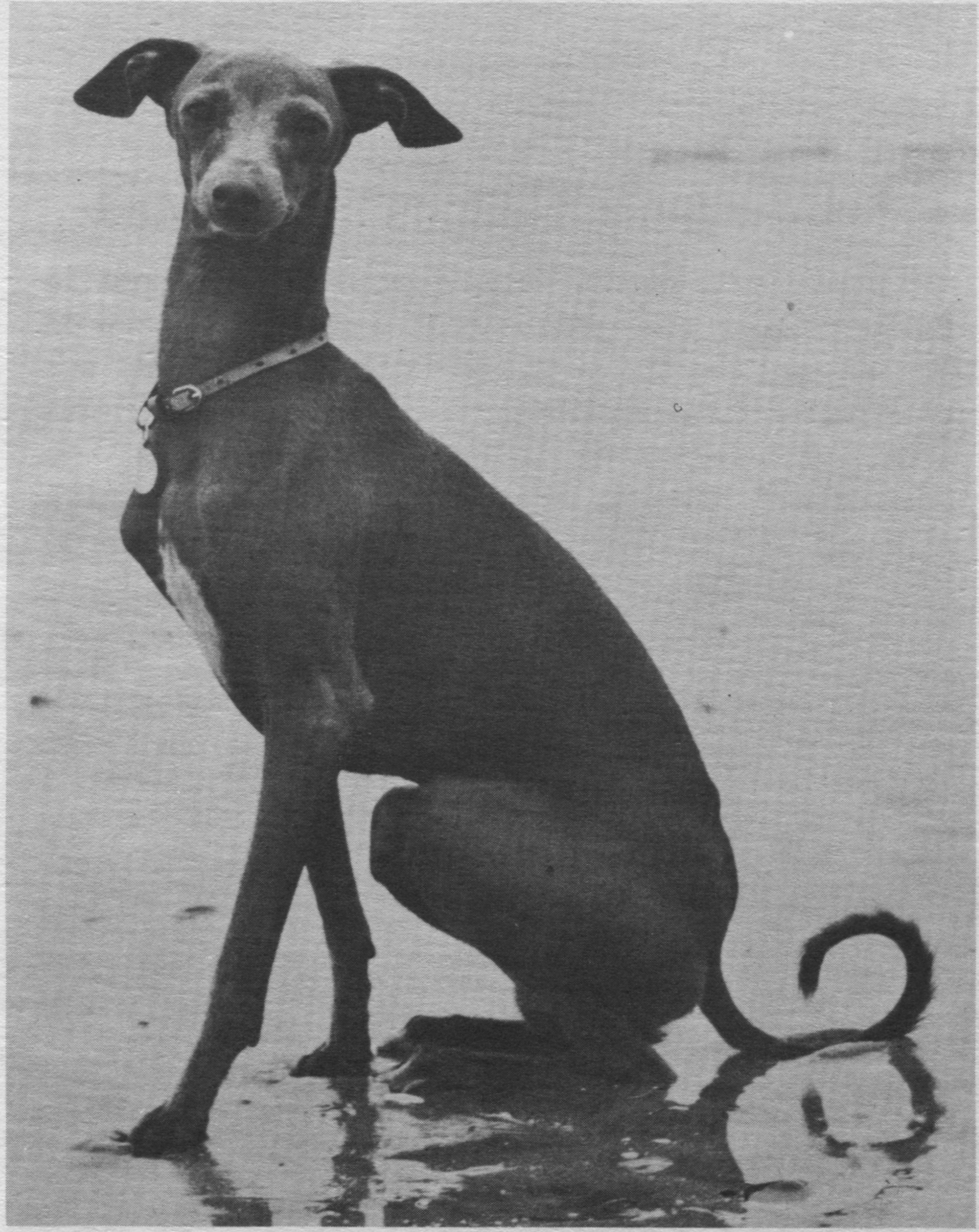
THE ITALIAN GREYHOUND

The Italian Greyhound has a well-recorded history in literature and art spanning over two thousand years and a probable history of four. Used for coursing hare, usually cast in braces, these smallest of coursing dogs, by virtue of their great agility, more than compensated for their lack of size. Courage, however, they had to have, since the hare is heavier than they and wields a mighty hind leg.

Just how the Italian Greyhound was first produced is probably best surmised by assuming a selective breeding for the smaller size with care that the graceful and functionally fast performance be preserved. It is more necessary in smaller dogs than larger, as they do not have the power of larger dogs for defense or lesser sensitivity of some of the heavier breeds.

The Italian Greyhound, although primarily kept as a pet today, was used at one time to course hares. Few people are aware of this now, but given a chance these tiny replicas of the original Greyhound could probably give an excellent account of themselves.





The Italian Greyhound has a very long history as a breed. He has been a favored pet of famous people through the centuries. Many works of art extant show the breed as a more rugged animal than he is generally considered today. These offer conclusive proof of his sporting abilities.

3. How Sight Hounds are Hunted

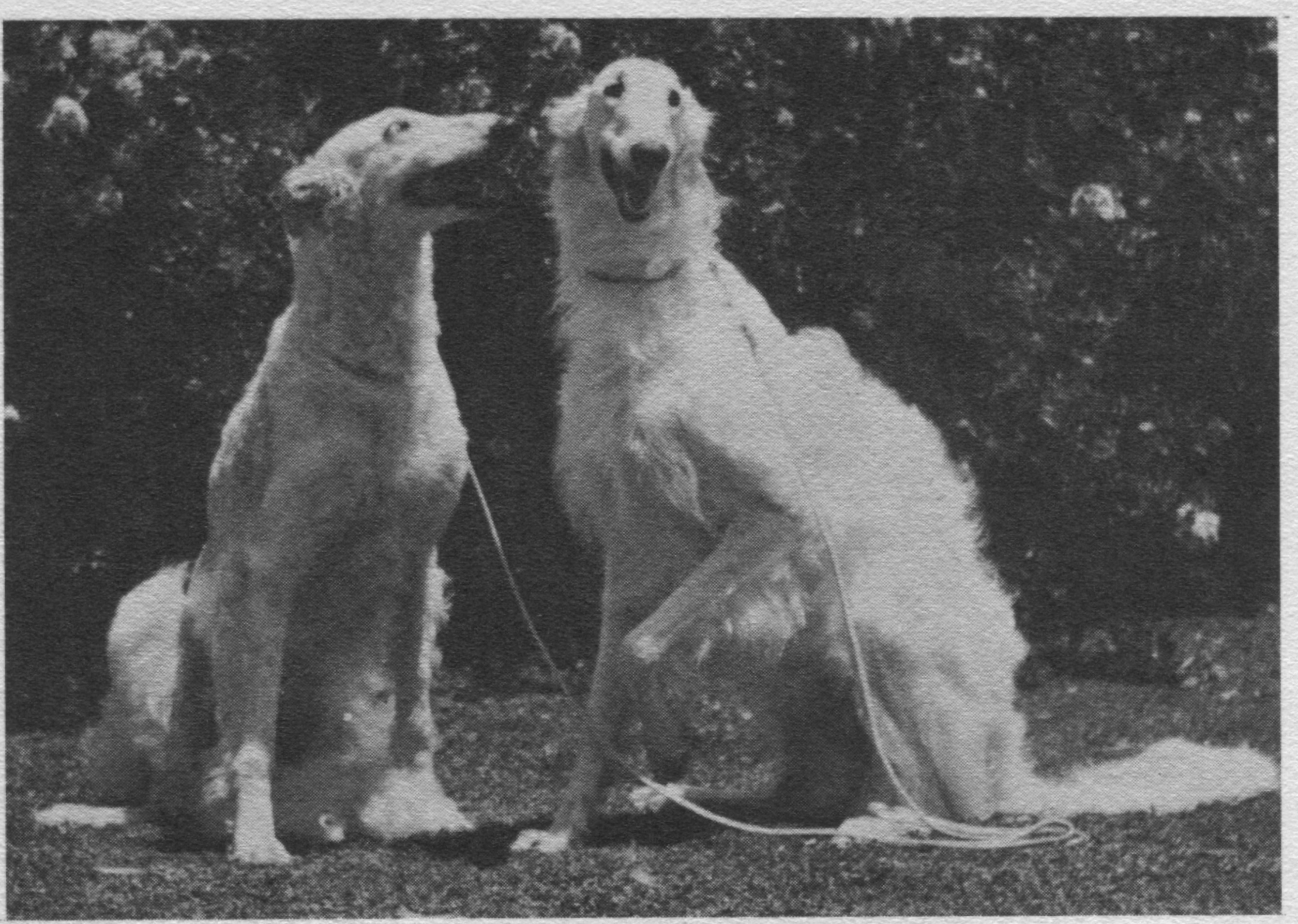
The most extensive hunting with sight hounds in modern times was undoubtedly done with Borzoi in Russia until the end of the last century. Not only was coursing a great sport with the game to hunt and extensive areas in which to run fast dogs, but some areas were overrun with hare, fox and wolves so that hunting was a necessity. Hunters were employed by the government to keep the number of predators within reasonable limits

As their ancestors before them have done for thousands of years this pack of Greyhounds tightens the ring around their prey: in this case a coyote. Packs of well-trained hounds are of great value in protecting sheep and cattle from the depredations of various wild animals.

To a good sight hound nothing is more exciting than the chase and a possible strike at the end of it. Such eagerness is plainly evident on the face of this Afghan as it scans the field for game.

for the sake of the crops and livestock of the farmers. The hunters, whose horsemanship was superb, were often referred to as *Jaegers* after the German term.

The hunter would ride cross-country with a brace of Borzoi on lead. When the quarry was sighted, the hounds would be unleashed. In coursing hare, great agility is required as the hare is a master at direction changing. Experienced hounds learn to bracket the hare and force it to turn from one to the other in order to increase the opportunity of closing with it. Once overtaken, a single strike usually suffices to finish it, but many a hare, with



Chs. Pocahontas and Rogue of Rancho Gabriel are examples of the dogs that excel on the windswept, open spaces and in the more confining boundaries of the show ring. Fanciers should always strive for the dual purpose dog rather than a show type and a separate field type.

the erratic escape tactics of the species, evades the hounds.

Foxes, though long legged speedsters in their own right, rarely weigh more than twelve pounds, and when caught, are quickly stretched between the two hounds and dispatched.

Wolves, which gave the Borzoi the name Russian Wolfhound in this country for a number of years, are a different matter indeed. Weighing as much or more than a Borzoi, with a physical make-up better adapted for fighting than for speed, and a heavy coat for protection, a mature wolf is more than a match for a single hound and for two or more hounds if they lack the knowledge and skill required to hold it until the arrival of the hunter. It was common practice to slip a trio of hounds when hunting wolves. Experienced hounds would approach the wolf from opposite sides and, by grabbing it by the ears simultaneously, hold it until the hunter, riding hard on their heels, could slide from his mount and finish the job.

Under today's conditions in America, a hound cannot be expected to acquire the experience of the Russian hounds of yesteryear, since they cannot be given the same training. The Russian huntsman, whether capturing wolves alive for sport or competition or to provide live wolves for training used a special technique. Riding hard after his hounds, he would present a wooden stick, on the ends of which thongs were attached, to the wolf as soon as the wolf was engaged by the dogs. The wolf would seize the stick and the huntsman immediately wrapped the thongs about its muzzle and head, then

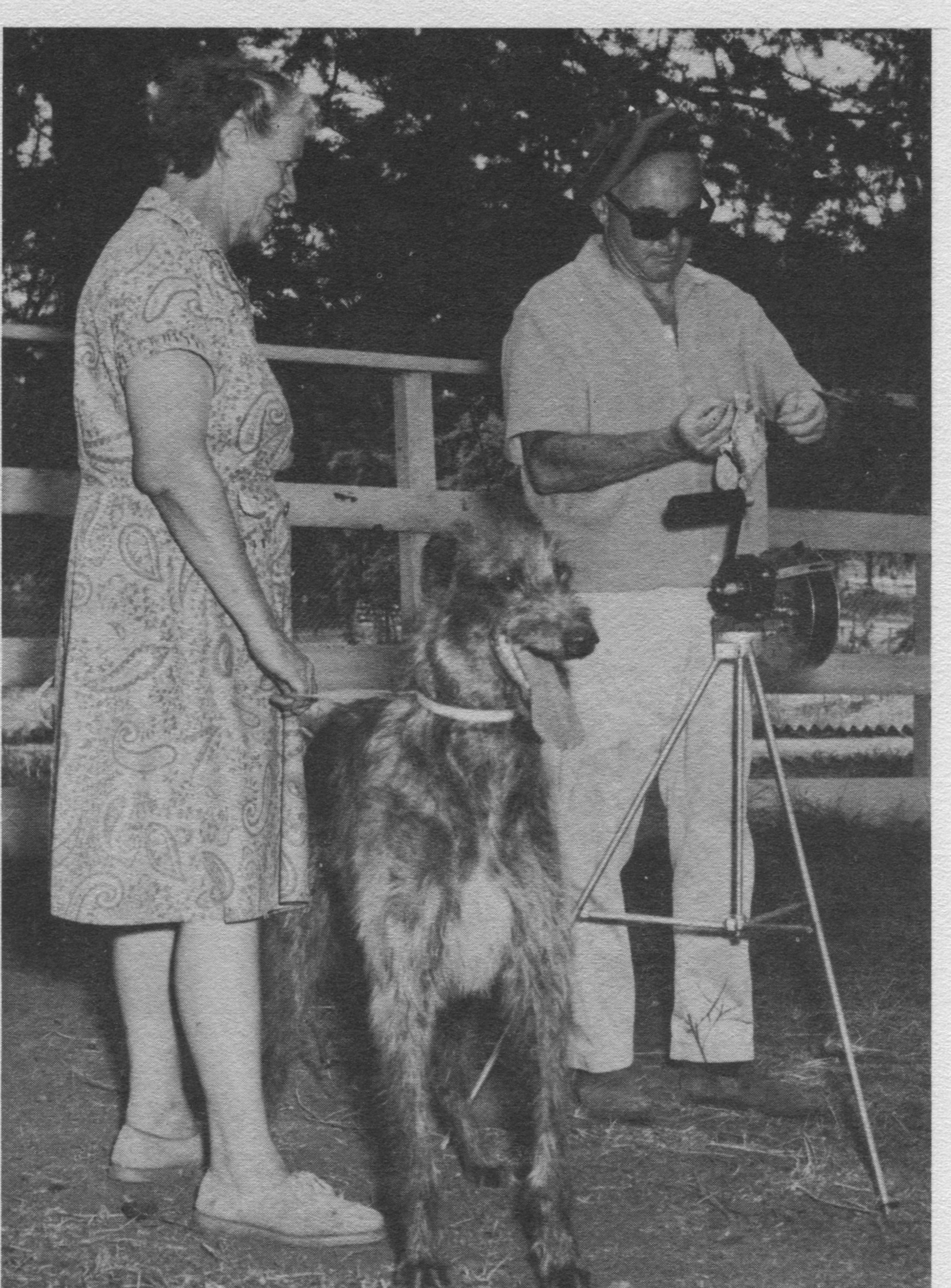
This brace of Scottish Deerhounds is about to be slipped. This breed cannot pursue its traditional employment today, as hunting deer with dogs is not permitted in the United States. They have, however, proven their proficiency on coyotes, wolves and rabbits among others.

All business as they emerge from the trailer, this pack of hounds wastes no time in streaking off across the plains of Nebraska in search of their prey.

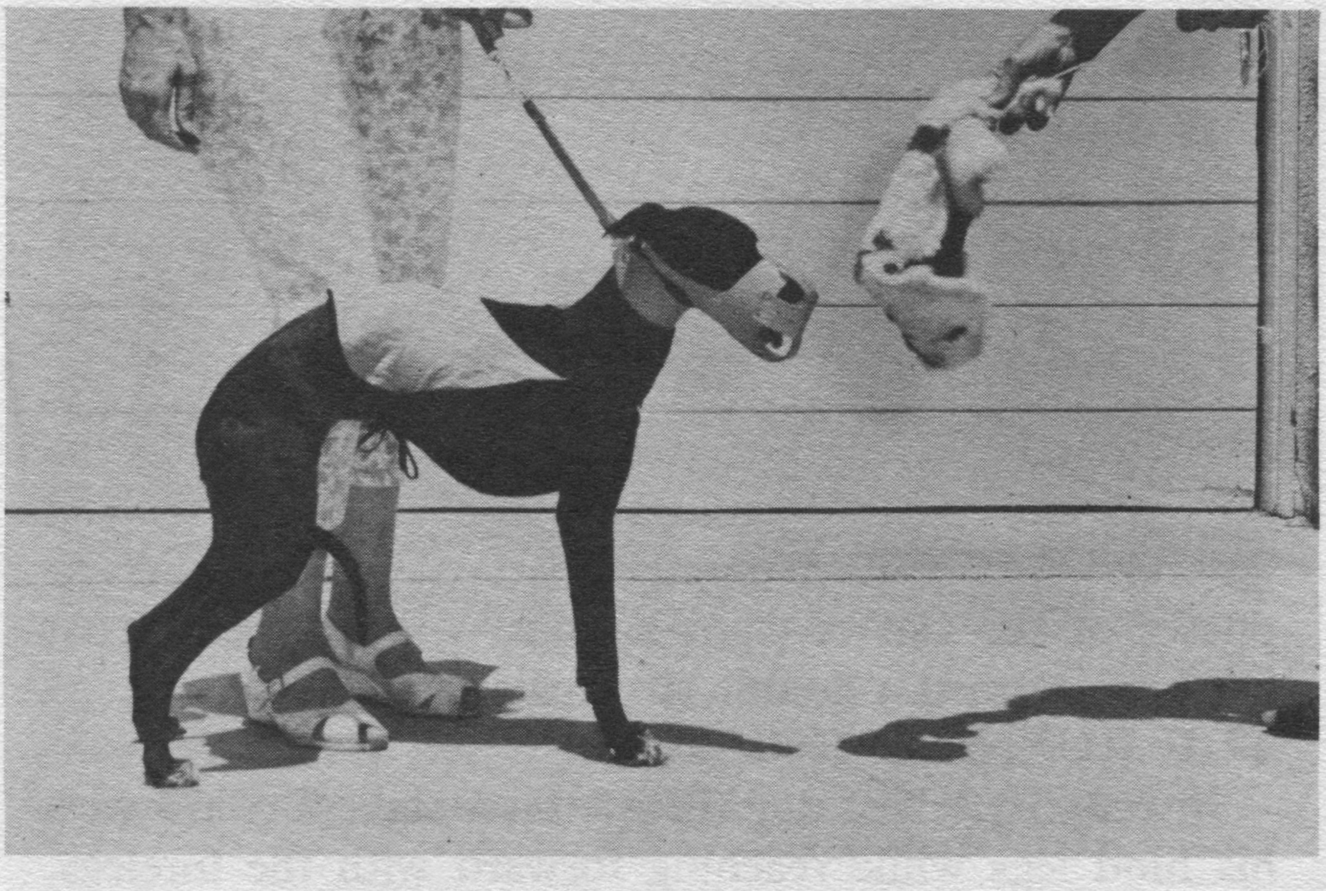
bound it for the trip home. Wolves, especially young ones, thus captured, were used to train young hounds until they (the dogs) became proficient in their holding technique and teamwork.

Though a grown wolf is ordinarily more than a match for a brace of hounds, particularly hounds without extensive training, there were braces so practiced and effective in their method that they could truly have been called wolfhounds. I discourse at length on this phase of

In the above photo the hounds have made physical contact with the coyote, and are moving in for the purpose of finishing him off. In the photo below one hound prepares to deliver the "coup de grace" to the vanquished predator.



There are various methods of training a hound in the proper manner of coursing. Here a reel-operated lure is being baited for the young Deerhound to give chase. Procedures of this sort not only build enthusiasm in the pupil, but also channel his natural abilities so as to be controlled for the purpose of competitive sport.



For track running a fur lure or artificial bunny on a motorized device is used. For any training to be fruitful the animal's interest must be sufficiently aroused for him to run. Once a hound's instincts are aroused however, he will be very keen to run at every opportunity.

the subject since I feel it should be clearly understood what should and what should not be expected of a dog in accordance with the circumstances. In our coursing today, hounds can only get their experience the hard way. True, more coyotes than wolves are coursed, but let no one underestimate the determination of a coyote when cornered, nor the possibility of a single hound or a brace being faced with coyote reinforcements when they are beyond the point where the hunter can be of help.

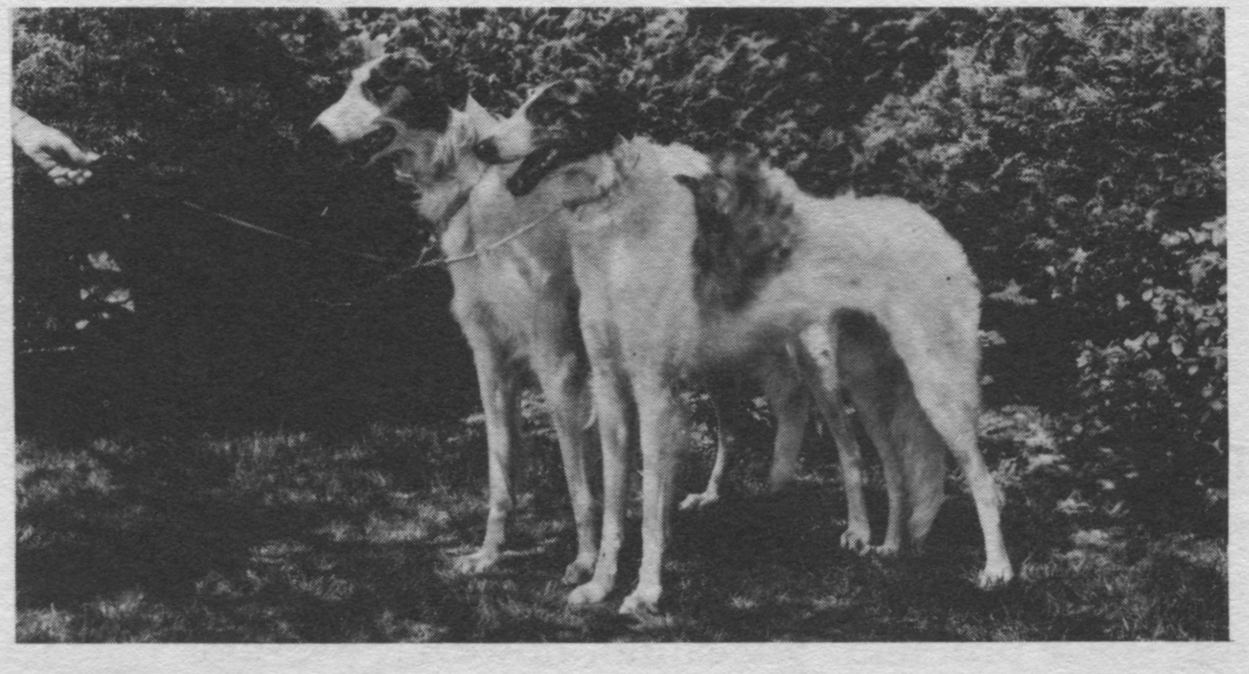
4. Gait

Cartoonists, wishing to illustrate a dog at high speed, often sketch the hind legs reaching forward while the forelegs are reaching backward between them, and all four feet are off the ground. This is actually one of the phases of the gait of sight hounds, who travel at what has been termed a double suspension gallop.

THE RUNNING HOUND

In running, a fast dog thrusts his weight forward with his hind legs while reaching forward with the forelegs. He does this with such propulsion in proportion to his weight that all four feet are off the ground and the body is

In order to gain a greater understanding of his dog in the field the coursing enthusiast must develop a thorough knowledge of the double suspension gallop employed by running hounds in the chase in all its phases.



There is an old saying among dog men: A dog that's made right will move right. This is especially true of all sight hounds where the measure of a dog is in the speed he can attain and in the efficiency of his gait while in motion.

suspended. When the forefeet strike the ground, he again thrusts and sends his body completely off the ground again as the hind legs reach forward. Thus, there are two suspensions in one complete running cycle. Strides attained by these streamlined dogs are tremendous.

SPEED AND THE CHASE

Keep in mind, however, that speeds of thirty-five miles an hour make stopping, turning or adjusting to irregular terrain extremely difficult. Even dodging trees, rocks, clumps of brush or any obstacle is possible only with the expenditure of considerable energy and fast reactions. Because running hounds at speed are out of contact with the ground much of the time there is a considerable percentage of the time when they have no traction to turn or change speed. They are much easier to bowl over too, if they are struck by the quarry and often do a flip if they strike at the quarry and miss. A remarkable ability to remain upright—a tremendous sense of balance and the flexibility and strength to recover are necessities of a successful coursing hound.

5. Transporting Sight Hounds

Excepting Irish Wolfhounds and larger Scottish Deerhounds, Greyhounds and Borzoi, it is rather surprising how small a space sight hounds need to curl up in. Carrying running hounds in a car therefore, poses no real space problem. We cannot however, overlook the fact that their limbs are slim and long, and cars are not free from the possibility of legs getting caught. With unexpected changes of speed or direction, the dogs weight thrown against a caught leg can prove disastrous. Like all dogs, sight hounds should be safely carried in some sort of crate or container, depending upon the dog and the car, unless under the careful supervision and control of someone other than the driver.

THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Dogs are several times more seriously affected by carbon monoxide poisoning than humans. Exhaust gases are responsible for more debility in both dogs and humans than we are conscious of or care to admit. Leaky exhaust lines, allowing seepage of gases through the car, are sometimes contributors but more often the gas enters the car through the rear.

The frontal area of a car travelling through the air produces a partial vacuum in back of it. Thus air pressure in front of the car is higher and behind the windshield and other frontal surfaces lower than the existing atmospheric pressure in the area. The surrounding pressure therefore, pushes gases into the car and gases from under or behind the car are pushed in. These gases contain an appreciable percentage of engine exhaust with carbon monoxide. We are not made too aware of this unless

Because of the danger of sudden stops and other road mishaps it is best to transport one's hounds in some sort of crate. Crating is not a cruelty and most dogs travel better and arrive at their destination in better shape from riding in a crate as against riding loose in a car.

traveling in wet snow or a dusty road where the rear window is quickly covered.

Opening a trunk lid or a rear window increases the flow of exhaust gases into the car.

To reduce exhaust gases in a car, get all possible ventilation from the frontal area. This will tend to build up the pressure within. An appreciable aid is the fins which are sometimes placed on the rear quarters of station wagons. The owners usually put them on to keep the rear windows clean, but far more important is the fact that they scoop air from the sides of the car as it moves forward and shunts it into the rear to help satisfy the partial vacuum there. Such vanes should be made a requirement of all car construction.

Greyhound breeders and fanciers especially should be conscious of carbon monoxide poisoning. A few years ago, dogs transported in special dog trailers from tracks in the north to tracks in the south or vice versa when the racing seasons changed were likely to get what was called "kennel sickness," or some other indefinite thing. They were made ill or killed or weakened to become victims of some disease by carbon monoxide in the exhaust gases from the cars towing them. The worst conditions encountered were in heavy traffic conditions or at ferry landings where the gases accumulated from idling engines and were not diluted by forward motion.

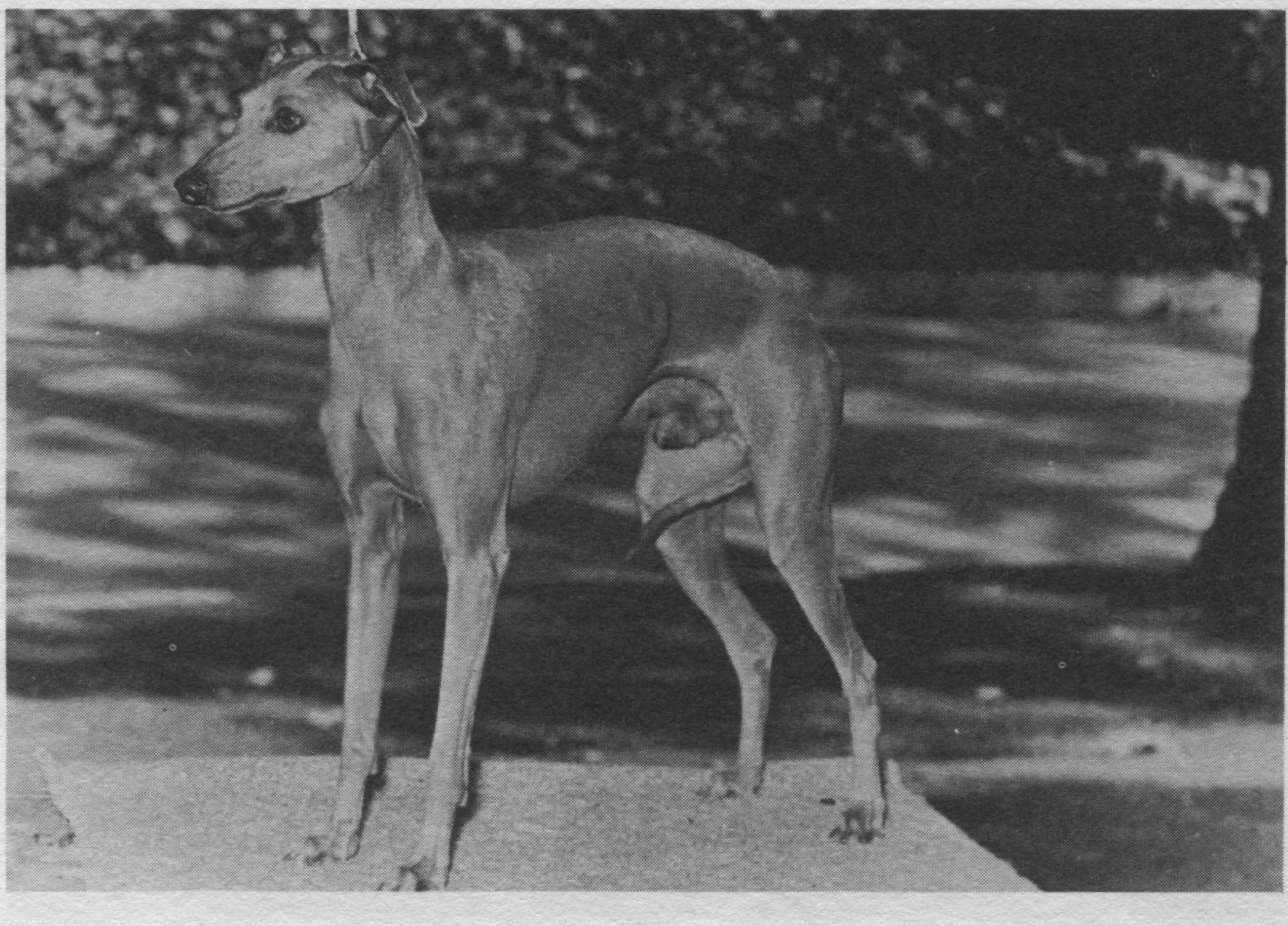
It is wise, whether for the welfare of your dogs, their ability to get game or their speed on the track or coursing field, to prevent their being partially debilitated by carbon monoxide poisoning.

6. Hunting Italian Greyhounds

Yes, the Italian Greyhound is small—a veritable miniature of the Greyhound—but, though it has been bred extensively and classified over the centuries as a toy, only its small size can excuse this. The Italian Greyhound has none of the characteristics of the dwarf. Its limbs are straight and its body symmetrical. It, like the Greyhound and Whippet it so closely resembles and the other sight hounds of the type, is geared to go.

Many fine pieces of art clearly indicate that the little coursers were used for centuries on hare. They are

It is believed that the Italian Greyhound may have been developed by breeding down from small Greyhounds. Many of the toy breeds are bantamized versions of larger breeds, but the Italian Greyhound is one of the few members of the toy group that can work.



portrayed in the chase and with the hare they have run down.

Those of us who have lived with tiny dogs are aware of their alert reactions. The fast reflexes of the smallest of our speedsters, coupled with their streamlined agility place them at the top of the list of artful dodgers. One owner I knew had a Great Dane, Fox Terrier and Toy Manchester Terrier. He exercised them by throwing a ball onto the roof of his two-story barn. I have watched the three dogs for some time in their competitive endeavor to retrieve the ball. The Toy Manchester's record was one hundred percent. This quickness of the little ones pays off in matching the shifty hare.

There are Italian Greyhounds being hunted on the continent today. Much good sport is being missed in this country by not working them on the kind of game for which they were originally bred. Their toy size and easy-to-live-with dispositions are coincidental. It is in fact, their utter fearlessness, despite their vulnerable size that contributes to their fine temperament.

7. Game

COTTONTAIL WITH SIGHT HOUNDS (Scent Hound—Sight Hound Teamwork)

Just as the Russians often used scent hounds (the common scent hound of Russia is called a *Guanchi*) to locate and flush wolves, foxes and hares from cover so that Borzoi could be slipped to run them down, an interesting method for bagging cottontail is locating and running them with Beagles or Bassets and slipping a brace of Whippets or Italian Greyhounds when the game comes in view. When not pushed too hard, a cottontail circles about in its home territory so that a hunter usually finds one or more opportunities for a shot. Using sight hounds instead of guns is an exciting variation of the sport.

Dogs and owners scan the horizon as they walk through the fields attempting to start game before the hounds. At the huntmaster's call of "Tally-Ho," the dogs will be slipped in pursuit of the quarry.

There are many possible variations in hunting with sight hounds. The Russians used a team of three Borzois to hunt the hare, fox and wolf. Sight hounds can also be used with scent hounds, and, where permitted, in partnership with falcons.

Chin-Dee, Endymion, and Sauvignon of Rancho Gabriel together with their owners going out on a course. The Huntmistress (*extreme right*) will give the signal for the dogs to be slipped as soon as game is sighted.

Greyhounds, Salukis and other sight hounds may, of course, be used for the same purpose, but for the cottontail, the hunter would be "overgunned" with the larger hounds. The larger hounds moreover, would find most rabbit cover a bit too difficult to maneuver in and the cottontail too erratic.

HARE WITH SIGHT HOUNDS

There are a few localities in the United States where the European hare has been planted and seems to thrive. Some of these areas were planted specifically to ride to hounds using Harriers or Foxhounds, or to enliven the sport of hunting with foot Beagle and foot Basset packs. Wherever these hare are located in country open enough for coursing, flushing hare and slipping hounds affords excellent sport.

COYOTES WITH SIGHT HOUNDS

Not too many years ago, coyotes were coursed, mainly to reduce the predator population, especially in sheep and cattle country. Before the automobile, hunters ventured forth on horseback with their hounds on lead until the quarry was sighted, when the hounds would be slipped. Today, with jeeps or other four-wheel drive cars, hounds are carried until game is sighted, then slipped to run it down. With vehicles suitable for the purpose, and within certain limitations encountered on the terrain, the hunters follow the chase.

JACKRABBITS WITH SIGHT HOUNDS

In the west, where jackrabbits abound, coursing has taken a new lease on life. Jacks are walked up and hounds slipped, usually in braces or trios, to make their passes. Greyhounds, Borzoi, Salukis, Afghan Hounds and Whippets are most frequently used.

The ancient sport of hunting with sight hounds is, happily, being revived at the present day. Fanciers of the running hounds are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of the chase in the development of their hounds. Many dog shows all across the United States now have demonstrations of coursing and sight hound racing to the delight of the gallery.

8. Competitive Coursing

For four years now, at this writing, organized coursing events have culminated in a "Grand Course" in which the National Coursing Championships are established in accordance with established rules and coursing regulations. Borzoi breeders are in the forefront in this renewal of an ancient sport. This started as the "Pacheco Hunt," which became recognized by the Borzoi Club of Northern California, and soon enjoyed the co-operation of the National parent club.

Weekends during winter and spring, when the meets are held, three handlers with their hounds, followed by a

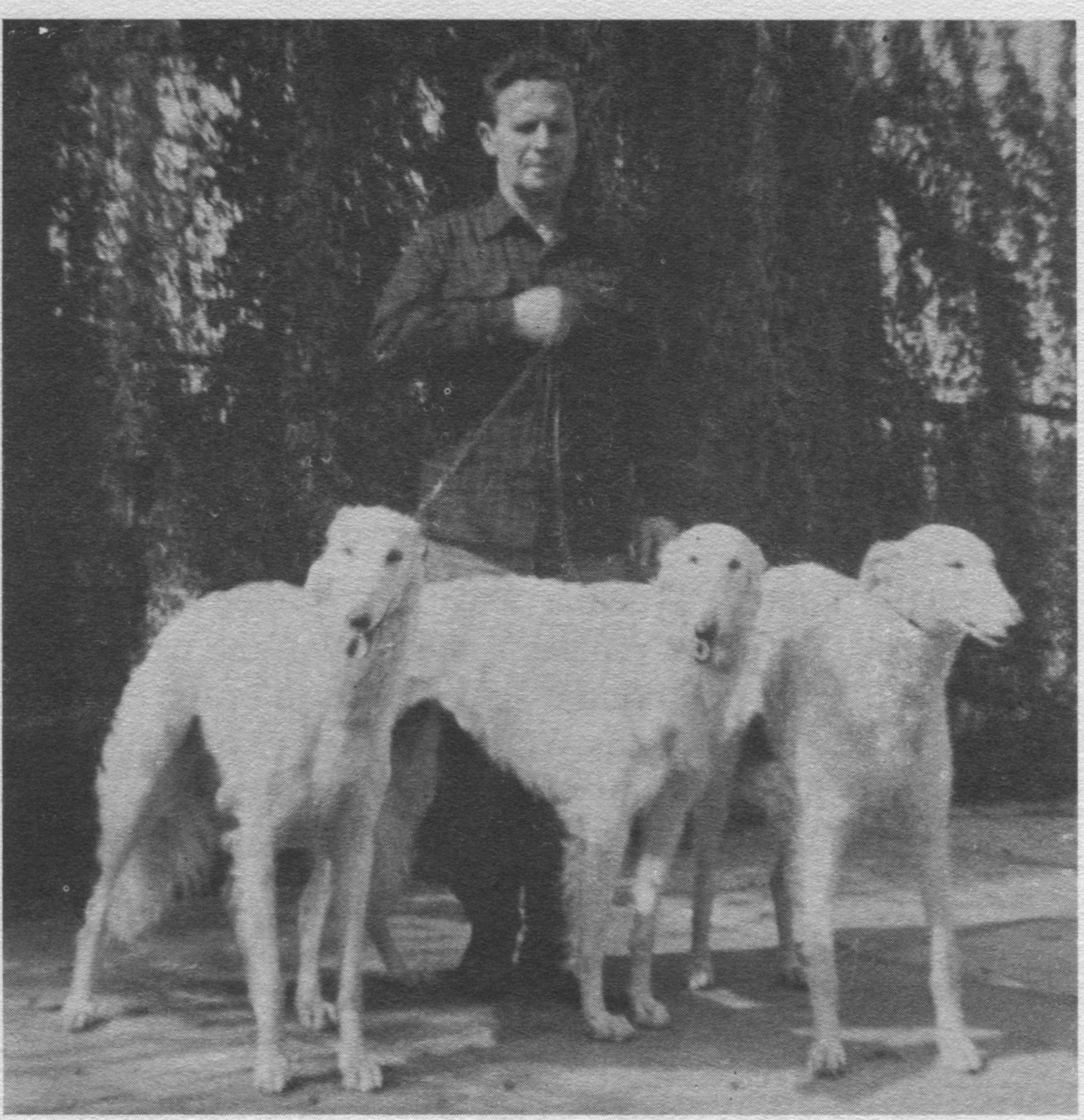
Ch. Sonoma of Rancho Gabriel, Vrozyat's Fascination, Ch. Mahne-Zona of Rancho Gabriel and Ramadan's Petite Lune with their owners P. Gillette, S. Craig, E. E. Dadmun and J. Dick after winning at the Borzoi Stake of the Pacheco Hunt. Huntmaster Lyle Gillette and judges Miss Jayne Langdon and Mr. Dante Longo are in the rear.

gallery of fanciers, advance across fields until a jackrabbit is flushed from its form. The hounds are slipped on command of the Master of the Hunt and streak after the fast disappearing jack. Endeavoring to match the elusive twisting tactics of the quarry, the hounds make their passes and recoveries. Success is attained when a hound makes a successful strike. The hounds are scored in accordance with their agility, enthusiasm, compatibility with dogs and people, speed, endurance and the strikes they make.

EPILOGUE

I might quote Phydelma and Lyle Gillete, Borzoi breeders of California, replacing the Borzoi, the name of their breed, with sighthound, since the thrill of the chase applies to all good hounds. "Once the owner of a sighthound slips his hound on swiftly moving prey, once he witnesses the beauty of his animal in full pursuit and sees

The gallery at a sight hound meet, aside from enjoying the events that take place, also performs an important function by starting game so that the hounds entered may give chase.



Lyle E. Gillette, Master of the Pacheco Hunt with a trio of Rancho Gabriel Borzois.

him come alive in breathless, flowing poetry of motion, once he knows the exuberance and gaiety of his hound returning from the course (whether he had made his strike or not), the love of his hound and his happiness will forevermore serve again and again to rout that owner from his bed before the dawn to watch, with the eager band of fellow-coursers, the 'hounds of the wind' in their early morning flight over the watching earth."

9. Sample Coursing Rules

From The Field Committee, Borzoi Club of America—
October, 1963

A PROPOSED CHAPTER ON SIGHT HOUNDS for the "Rules Applying to Registration and Field Trials" of the American Kennel Club

(Including amendments and alterations to the proposed Rules agreed upon in essence by the Conference on Sight Hound Rules at Merced, California, in February, 1963, and subsequent meetings of the Advisory Committee on Sight Hound Field Rules set up at that conference).

The first ten (10) chapters of the Rules would apply as general rules governing Sight Hound Coursing Meets, as well as Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Many fans find the mixed course, where a number of sight hounds breeds compete, to be of particular interest. Here are the winners of a Grand Course. The Winner is an Afghan, second a Greyhound, third a Saluki and fourth, a Whippet. The divergent manner in which the various breeds course is a source of fascination to those who follow the "hounds of the wind."

The following proposed Sections are to constitute a chapter on *Special Rules and Championship Points Applying to Sight Hounds.*

SECTION 1. Only pure-bred sight hounds may be entered in a Sight Hound Coursing Meet. Sight hounds, for the purpose of these Rules, are defined as Afghan Hounds, Borzois, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, and Whippets.

SECTION 2. If the owner of a pure-bred sight hound shall furnish proof acceptable to the American Kennel Club that such a hound is "ineligible for registration," such hounds may compete in coursing meets for life without being registered, upon payment of listing fee to the American Kennel Club on each occasion upon which it is entered.

A sight hound eligible for registration likewise can be listed with the American Kennel Club for the purpose of being entered in coursing meets, but only at three separate events and upon payment of a listing fee on each occasion, unless the owner shall be unavoidably delayed in securing the information necessary for its registration, in which case written permission may be given by the American Kennel Club to enter said dog for a reasonable time as a listed dog.

SECTION 3. No hound not regularly entered in the coursing meet shall be allowed on the grounds during the advertised hours of the meet.

SECTION 4. The owner or agent entering a dog in a coursing meet does so at his own risk, and agrees to abide by the rules of the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 5. No judge or any member of his or her immediate family may own or run a dog in any stake of a sight hound coursing meet in which stake he or she is officiating as a judge.

SECTION 6. The decision of the Coursing Meet Committee present shall, in all matters arising at the Meet, be final and conclusive, and shall bind all parties subject, however, to the Rules of the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 7. At any meet, no hound may be entered in more than one regular stake.

SECTION 8. No hound whose age is less than one year on the date of the meet may be entered in any stake, except the Puppy Stake.

SECTION 9. Entry fees shall be fixed by the Coursing Meet Committee, and shall be forfeited in such cases where hounds are dismissed from the field for cause. Bitches in season which have come in season after the close of entries shall be excepted from this rule, and their entry fees shall be refunded. Hounds determined to be lame at time of drawing shall be barred from competition and their entry fees shall be refunded.

SECTION 10. Regular Stakes, at the option of the meet-giving club, may be offered for the host club's breed and the other sight hound breeds (Mixed), as follows:

Open Stake—shall consist of the entries, both dogs and bitches, whose ages on the date of the Meet are one year or more. For dogs of the host breed, this Stake shall be designated as "Open Stake, (*breed*)". For dogs of all other breeds which shall be run in a separate Stake, the Stake shall be designated as "Open Stake, Mixed."

Championship points shall be awarded to winners only of Open Stakes.

SECTION 11. At the option of the host club, Non-Regular Stakes may be offered for the hounds of the host breed only, as follows:

Puppy Stakes—For puppies of the host breed, whose ages on the date of the meet are six months but less than one year.

Kennel Stakes—which shall consist of entries of three hounds (or two in the case of brace rules being applied), owned and kenneled by the same person or persons, entered and automatically drawn and coursed as a complete trio (or brace) in competition with other like trios (or braces) entered by other kennels.

SECTION 12. In each Open Stake, winners of all trios or braces competing in the Stake shall compete in the Winners Course, the winners of which shall be awarded championship points as hereinafter stated.

SECTION 13. All hounds starting a stake shall remain on the grounds until the stake is completed, unless required for further judging, under which conditions the hound shall not be excused until after such judging has taken place.

SECTION 14. Hounds shall be tested and judged on Jackrabbit (Hare) or any other game approved by the American Kennel Club Board of Directors for the area in which the meet is held.

SECTION 15. Hounds shall be coursed in trios on each quarry raised, according to numbers drawn. Dogs may be designated by colors according to their drawing: first number—Red; second number—White; third number—Black. In breeds where the brace is traditional, hounds may be run in braces, if so stated in the Premium List.

SECTION 16. Order and arrangement of dogs' coursing shall be determined by a drawing of numbers at the beginning of the Meet (or beginning of the day if more than one day), according to a given pattern, to be determined by the Committee. Insofar as the entry warrants, trios shall be drawn to contain two bitches and one dog, for this purpose bitches' numbers and dogs' numbers may be placed in separate containers with one drawn from the dog container and two from the bitch container. In a brace meet, the sexes should also be mixed insofar as possible.

SECTION 17. At the time of drawing the Coursing Meet Committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, bitches in season, and adequacy of equipment. Entries found to be lame or bitches found to be in season shall be barred from competition and entry fees shall be refunded.

If a hound is injured in the field or becomes lame in the field, the handler shall determine whether the dog shall continue to compete or whether it shall be withdrawn. A hound which becomes lame in the field or is injured in the field shall not be entitled to a refund of its entry fee.

No metal leads or slips shall be permitted. Recommended slips are those consisting of a leather strap with wide collar and D ring (Whippet type), or a simple leather strap and D ring, the Craig type.

SECTION 18. At the time of drawing, wherever hounds drawn for the same trio are deemed by the Hunt Master to be incompatible, he may order an exchange with another hound in another brace or trio.

SECTION 19. All hounds and handlers in the field shall be under the direction of the Hunt Master at all times, who shall order dogs slipped or taken up, and shall direct the drawing for the coursing order of the hounds.

SECTION 20. Each hound entering the field must be accompanied by a handler or a handler's assistant, determined at the time of drawing. One person may handle a hound in more than one trio during a given Meet, but by exchanging dogs with his assistants as their turn for coursing comes up.

SECTION 21. However, if a handler has two or more hounds drawn for the same trio, he must arrange for the handling of the second and/or third hound in that trio by other parties designated at the time of drawing, and hounds shall not be assigned to other trios for this reason.

Section 22. Any owner who deputizes another person to handle his hound must not interfere with the hound while it is coursing.

Section 23. Judges shall dismiss handlers who wilfully interfere with another competitor or his hound.

Section 24. Hounds may be disqualified by the judges and dismissed from the field for the following reasons:

(*a*) Bitches in season
(*b*) Diseased or lame hounds
(*c*) Hounds interfering with the course of another hound, either playfully or viciously.

Section 25. All dogs in the field shall be leashed securely, but may be taken with the handler (one per dog in the field) and participate in the gallery until their turns come up to be slipped.

Section 26. Handlers shall provide each entry with a simplified slip, which will give almost instantaneous freedom to the hound which is to be released, when game is sighted and the Tally-Ho sounded by the Hunt Master.

Section 27. Handlers with their contestants leashed, shall, with visitors and onlookers, walk slowly in a line through the fields to help raise the quarry. They shall be under the control of the Hunt Master and Marshalls at all times, and shall follow the trios (or braces) of hounds to be slipped on the next quarry. The Hunt Master shall take his position abreast of the hunting trio or brace, with a Right Marshall, Roving Marshall and Left Marshall guiding the gallery.

Section 28. In the event the handlers and dogs to be slipped come upon a hazard (barbed wire fence, open trench, extremely rough terrain, water pools etc.) which in the opinion of the judges presents a potential danger to the dogs, the Hunt Master shall be called upon to order a "time out" period until the hazard is safely by-passed.

SECTION 29. Where a handler pre-slips his hound before the Tally-Ho is sounded, or where a hound is slipped out of turn, the Hunt Master shall warn the handler of this infraction. If the same handler breaks this rule a second time during a given meet, he may be disqualified and immediately dismissed from the field. In the event such dismissed handler has other entries in the meet, he may, at his discretion, thereupon assign his entries to other handlers, which shall be recognized.

SECTION 30. A course shall begin with the Tally-Ho signal for the hounds to be released; the Hunt Master shall at that instant begin the time on the stop watch. If for any reason the course should cease or be called off within 25 seconds from the Tally-Ho, it shall be declared a No-Course by the Hunt Master.

SECTION 31. Dogs in a No-Course may be excused to rest until called up again after the other courses have been run, but before the Winners Course. Hounds shall not be penalized for a No-Course.

SECTION 32. Judging shall be done by two judges, both of whom shall participate in the selection of placings. In case of a tie, they may call a re-run of the hounds concerned in order to break the tie. Winners shall be announced immediately after the completion of each course. Score sheets shall be provided, and shall be preserved for the record.

SECTION 33. No judge, Hunt Master or Marshall shall handle a contestant in the field where he is officiating, nor shall a dog belonging to any judge or member of his immediate household be entered in any stake where that judge is officiating. Such dogs may however, be entered in other stakes at that meet where that judge is not officiating.

SECTION 34. Placings of winners shall be decided on the basis of qualities evidenced of speed, contact with the quarry, endurance, agility, enthusiasm and searching, intelligence, compatibility and obedience. In placing the hounds, judges shall be guided by the following point system:

Speed (determined by go-bys, wrenches and turns)	25
Contact (A trip or strike—touching the quarry—5 points; the Take or Capture, 10 points)	15
Endurance (Sustained coursing)	15
Agility (Ability to change course quickly, avoid collisions, negotiate rough terrain)	10
Enthusiasm and Searching (Eagerness and alertness in seeking the game)	10
Intelligence	10
Compatibility (With both dogs and people)	10
Obedience	5
Total	100

(*DISQUALIFICATION: The aggressor in fighting in the field*).

SECTION 35. For the sake of clarity, a *Go-By* is where a hound starts a clear length behind his opponent, and yet passes him in a straight run and gets a clear length before him.

The *Turn* is where the hare is brought around at not less than a right angle from the previous line.

The *Wrench* is where the hare is bent from her line at less than a right angle; but where she only leaves her line to suit herself, and not from the hound pressing her.

The *Trip* or unsuccessful effort to kill is where the hare is thrown off her legs or where a hound flicks her but cannot hold her.

The merit of a kill must be estimated according to whether a hound by its own superior dash and skill bears the hare; whether the hare is picked up through any little accidental circumstances favoring the hound, or whether the hare is turned into the hound's mouth, as it were, by the other hounds.

SECTION 36. Placings of the Stake winners shall be made on the basis of scores earned by the contestants in all previous courses run in that particular Stake. In other words, the Stake winners shall be chosen by the total performance in the Stake, rather than by the performance in the Winners Course alone.

SECTION 37. All hounds entered in a given Stake shall be divided into trios, by the drawing. If one extra dog is present, it shall run with the final trio as a group of four. If two extra dogs are present, these two shall run together as a group of two. In the case of braces, if one extra dog is present, it shall run with the final brace as a trio.

SECTION 38. The judges shall select from each trio in a given Stake one dog to run in the Winners Course of that Stake. At the decision of the judges, any other hound or hounds placing second or third in their trio also may be required to run in the Winners Course. In the case of brace meets, the same procedure shall apply.

Contestants in the Winners Course shall be drawn for position and shall be coursed in trios, as directed in Section 37.

SECTION 39. From the Winners Course, the judges shall select a hound for first, second, third, fourth places (and Next Best Qualified, if required by the American Kennel Club). This selection of winners shall apply to each Stake run in the Meet, except the Kennel Stake, which shall be selected as follows:

> Dogs in the Kennel Stakes shall be scored by the judges as in the regular stakes, except that the winning trio (or brace) shall be determined by the aggregate scores of the individual hounds in the trio (or brace).

SECTION 40. A permanent title of Coursing Champion

(C. Ch.) shall be awarded as a prefix to the registered name of any hound which has fulfilled the following Championship qualifications:

(*a*) A number of championship points fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, the number at present being 40.

(*b*) One first place in an Open Stake, or two second places.

(*c*) One take or capture of the quarry.

Qualification for item (*c*) shall be determined from the record, in which judges shall record the identification of dogs making a capture in any official Meet.

SECTION 41. In the Open Stakes, for both the host breed and the Mixed, championship points shall be awarded on the basis of:

1st place: Four times the number of contestants in the stake.

2nd place: Three times the number of contestants in the stake.

3rd place: Twice the number of contestants in the stake.

4th place: Points equal to the number of contestants in the stake.

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	AP-2900	Airedale Terriers	$2.00
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	D-441	Fox Terr, Wirehair	.35
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	AP-2050	Ger Shthr Pointer	$1.50
	PS-635	Ger Shthr Pointer	$4.95
	DS-1080	Ger Wirehair Point	$1.00
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	DS-1018	Golden Retriever	$1.00
	D-418	Golden Retrievers	.35
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	DS-1019	Great Dane	$1.00
	AP-2750	Great Dane, Pet	$1.50
	PS-620	Great Dane, This is	$4.95
	D-419	Great Danes as Pet	.35
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	DS-1084	Great Pyrenees	$1.00
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About the AUTHOR

JOE STETSON, editor, lecturer, commentator, judge and long-time breeder and trainer of field dogs, was born in the family of a country doctor. The family's dogs included pointers, beagles, setters, a coonhound of one kind or another and a rough and tumble member of one of the terrier breeds to keep down the varmint population and handle the coonhound's pugilistic affairs. It was Mr. Stetson's privilege to observe and participate in the hunting of many kinds of game and the breeding and training of dogs for the purpose.

Mr. Stetson has bred and exhibited several breeds successfully on the bench, but those who have enjoyed his annual telecast of the Westminster show from Madison Square Garden are aware of his appreciation of dogs capable of doing the job for which each breed was originally produced.

As gun dog editor of Field and Stream Magazine for many years, he spends much of his time observing dogs in action. He has owned and lived with many different sporting breeds.

His writing is based upon these many years of experiences and reflects the objective, accurate approach, which he feels is his responsibility to his Field and Stream readership. He now operates Nimrod Valley, a three thousand acre shooting preserve in Cold Spring, New York, where training and running dogs is possible the year 'round.

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